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LD251453 [Editorial Report]

Israel and the Palestinians

The political dispute between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres continued during the 24 January cabinet meeting, IDF radio reported, noting that the argument again focused on the international conference issue. Peres reviewed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative, which calls for a 6-month moratorium on Israeli settlement activity and violence in the occupied territories in conjunction with moves to guarantee Palestinian political rights and convene an international conference. The foreign minister subsequently welcomed Mubarak's call for a halt to violence in the territories as "very positive," though Peres said he does not agree with all the points proposed by the Egyptian leader in his WASHINGTON POST interview, the radio noted.

The discussion of Mubarak's initiative in Israel followed a 23 January meeting in Paris between Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir and Egyptian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz, according to Jerusalem radio, which noted that Al-Baz briefed Tamir on details of the Egyptian proposal. MENA confirmed the meeting and linked it with Mubarak's initiative. In a related development, Jerusalem radio reported that Shamir has received a message from Mubarak stressing that the "tragic" situation in the territories cannot continue and warning that rejection of an international conference is a stumbling block to peace. Mubarak's message, conveyed by the Egyptian ambassador, also stressed that Israel has nothing to fear from an international conference because no outside power will be authorized to impose a decision. However, Shamir reaffirmed his opposition to Mubarak's views in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio 25 January.

As for the IDF's policy of "blows" to quell disturbances, Jerusalem television announced that IDF commanders will limit the use of beatings following some "irregular" cases in recent days. An IDF spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio acknowledged that there may have been "deviations from the norm" in certain cases. Refugee camp inhabitants in Ramallah had accused soldiers of entering houses to beat up residents, the radio noted, and a Knesset MK said soldiers had also smashed hundreds of windows in Gaza Strip camps.

On the security situation, IDF radio reported "relative quiet" in the territories 24 January except for an incident in Ramallah in which the IDF fired to disperse stone-throwing youths. Police had earlier imposed a temporary curfew on the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Al-Tur following local disturbances, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that four people from Al-Tur were arrested after an interrogation of all men in the area. Israeli Arabs held a rally in Nazareth 23 January during which MK 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah announced his resignation from the Labor Party and called on other Arab Alignment members to join him, the radio noted.

Outside Israel, Baghdad Voice of PLO broadcast a 22 January statement by the "unified national command of the uprising" warning against "those who seek to undermine our people's will" by raising "false slogans which conflict with PLO slogans" and which "cast doubts" on the Palestinians' loyalty to the PLO. The statement urged Palestinians to ignore statements and circulars that do not carry the signature of the unified command, which includes "all national factions that are represented by the PLO and the Islamic Jihad movement." In a subsequent statement carried by the radio, the unified command criticized the "crocodile tears of the Amman regime" and referred to the "clear harmony" between the Israeli occupation authorities and some Arab regimes. In Beirut, the PFLP denounced President Mubarak's initiative as part of "U.S. and Israeli" efforts to defeat the Palestinian "uprising," AFP reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers Conference—At the end of an extraordinary conference in Tunis over the weekend, Arab foreign ministers called on the UN Security Council to take measures to end the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and urged the United Nations to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces, Tunis radio reported. The conferees established a committee to formulate a joint plan of action, promised financial aid for the Palestinian "uprising," and decided to carry out an intensive information campaign on the international level against Israel.

The conference rejected a Syrian proposal that Arab states maintaining relations with Egypt should call on the latter to sever relations with Israel, Radio Monte Carlo noted. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had urged this policy in a speech reported by Damascus radio, asserting that if children in the occupied territories can confront Israel's "iron strength" with stones, it is "inconceivable" that the Israeli flag continues to fly in Cairo. Nevertheless, Al-Shar' told Radio Monte Carlo that he is "very satisfied" with the conference resolutions, which reflect "80 percent" of the Syrian viewpoint.

On the sidelines of the conference, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadullah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, KUNA reported, noting that this was 'Arafat's first meeting with a top Libyan official since 1982. The foreign ministers' conference had been convened at the request of Libya, TAP noted. In another development following the Tunis conference, the foreign ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the YAR, Tunisia, and Morocco held a separate meeting in their capacity as the seven-member Arab committee tasked with following up developments in the Iran-Iraq war, INA disclosed.

Tunisian-Egyptian Relations—Tunisia and Egypt issued a joint statement announcing their decision to resume full diplomatic relations as of 23 January. The statement, which was carried by Tunis radio and MENA, linked the decision with the historic ties between the two countries and with their desire to strengthen "growing" bilateral relations. Commenting on the "historic" event in remarks broadcast by Tunis radio, Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri noted that the joint statement followed "priority talks" with the Egyptians, as well as thorough consultations with other Arab states.

Syrian-Saudi Contact—Before attending the Tunis conference, Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar' visited Saudi Arabia to give King Fahd a verbal message from President Hafiz al-Asad, Riyadh radio noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi jets attacked a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 25 January, according to a military spokesman's statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. AFP earlier reported a 23 January Iraqi strike on an Iranian supertanker south of Khark Island. The agency also cited reports of a 22 January Iranian speedboat attack on a Danish tanker, the third such Iranian attack in 24 hours, which caused "major damage." Tehran radio reported the vessel had been attacked by "gunboats."

In other action, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that the I Army Corps repulsed a series of Iranian advances in northern sectors 22 January, killing 230 enemy troops. The communique also said Iraqi warplanes struck a surface-to-air missile battery in the southern sector the following day. In a 24 January statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman charged that Iranian jets had attacked residential areas in the northern Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, killing one civilian. In contrast, an Iranian commander speaking to IRNA dismissed the accusation as "pure fabrication," maintaining that the aircraft had bombed "radar and communication installations." In an earlier attack, Iranian Air Force jets "heavily bombarded" Iraqi fortifications and troop concentrations east of Basra 23 January, according to a communique carried by IRNA.

In another development, Tehran radio claimed that a 23 January Iraqi helicopter crash which killed the commander of the Iraqi V Army Corps was caused by "fire by the IRGC" in the Bayt al-Moqqadas-2 operational region. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied the allegation, attributing the crash to "technical failure." He added that the helicopter went down "hundreds of kilometers" from the area cited by the Iranians.

Iran

Jurisconsult's Powers—Discussing Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's powers as "Velayat-e Faqih," (supreme jurisconsult), President 'Ali Khamene'i emphasized the absolute nature of the Imam's authority, affirming that the Islamic Republic and its constitution derive their legitimacy entirely from the approval of the supreme jurisconsult, whose orders come from God. In his remarks, at a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio, Khamene'i stressed that government and judicial regulations are "manifestations" of the jurisconsult's rule and accordingly "must be obeyed." The president welcomed the critical letter he had received from Khomeyni on 7 January, describing it as "very dear and valuable to me." Although some people detected a "biting tone" in the letter, Khamene'i said, "I myself did not find it at all biting but, on the contrary, very desirable."

Soviet Message—The Soviet ambassador gave Khamene'i a "friendly" message from the Soviet leadership 24 January, Tehran radio reported, adding that the president expressed thanks and stressed the need to expand bilateral relations.

Jordan

Welcome For Soviet Proposal—A government spokesman commended the Soviet proposal for moves within the UN Security Council to set up an international conference as a "serious and effective step contributing to giving momentum to the peace process in the region," Amman radio reported.

Arrest of PFLP Members—The PFLP issued a statement in Damascus 23 January accusing the Jordanian authorities of having arrested 33 PFLP members, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Although the radio added that Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has confirmed the arrest of PFLP members charged with inciting riots, monitored Jordanian media have not been observed to mention the issue.

Lebanon

Amal, Palestinian Withdrawals—The Amal Movement opened all the roads leading to the Al-Rashidiyah Camp in the Tyre area 24 January, according to Amal sources cited by Beirut radio. Bulldozers began removing barricades from these roads and from the entrances to the camp. The radio also disclosed that Palestinian gunmen removed their armed checkpoints from a road east of Sidon the same day. However, the Palestinians retained their positions in several villages in the area, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. Regarding the situation in Beirut, the Fatah command in Lebanon expressed "appreciation" to Syria for deploying around the camps, adding that the Syrian presence "guarantees" the security of the camp residents, according to Beirut radio. Nevertheless, the Voice of Lebanon reported that the Syrians have detained some 14 Palestinians since deploying around Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah.

Moscow Visit—PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Communist Party leader George Hawi were received by CPSU Central Committee Politburo member Yegor Ligachev and other Soviet officials in Moscow 23 January, TASS announced. Junblatt and Hawi briefed their hosts on

Lebanon's "increasingly acute socioeconomic problems, the activities of their parties, and the vigorous activities of the Lebanese patriotic resistance," the agency added.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meetings—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met with visiting Soviet Foreign Ministry official Vladimir Polyakov, who delivered a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, JANA reported 23 January. Among the topics discussed were the Palestinian "uprising," Afghanistan, the Soviet restructuring drive, and bilateral relations.

Al-Qadhdhafi also received envoys from the Saudi and Moroccan kings over the weekend, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio and JANA reported respectively.

Arms Deal With Brazil—According to the 21 January Rio de Janeiro newspaper O GLOBO, Libya and Brazil are about to conclude the "largest arms deal ever made" by the Brazilian weapons industry. A visiting Libyan military procurement official held a series of meetings with Brazilian officials to discuss the acquisition of tanks and missiles in exchange for Libyan oil.

Sudan

Fall of Kapoeta 'Confirmed'—A Khartoum press report cited by SUNA "confirmed" that Kapoeta has fallen to SPLA forces. AL-SUDANI said the capture of the town was due to a shortage of ammunition and other military supplies.

MIG-23 Crash at Juba—A military aircarft crashed as a result of "technical failure" while attempting to land at Juba airport 23 January, SUNA reported. According to MENA the plane was a MIG-23, one of five received from Libya as a gift.

State of Emergency Extended—The Council of State has decided to extend the state of emergency declared last year, SUNA reported.

Afghanistan

"The criminal extremists" were responsible for planting explosives that killed 8 persons and wounded 47 during the 22 January funeral of Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan in Jalalabad, Kabul radio announced. The explosions took place in a parking lot for buses that had brought thousands of people from Pakistan to attend the Pashtun nationalist leader's funeral. An eyewitness to the bombings told Moscow television that they were the work of the mujahidin faction led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. However, the seven-party alliance of mujahidin factions condemned the explosions, which it attributed to the KGB, according to Iran's IRNA. AFP noted that the thousands of Pakistanis attending the funeral had entered Afghanistan unchecked because normal crossing restrictions had been lifted on the funeral procession to Jalalabad.

In a speech at the funeral, broadcast by Kabul radio, President Najibullah affirmed that Afghanistan is looking forward to the success of the Geneva talks and he reaffirmed that the withdrawal of the "limited contingents" of Soviet forces will be implemented during 1988. Najibullah subsequently received Assistant UN Secretary General Diego Cordovez, who arrived in Kabul over the weekend to consult with Afghan leaders on preparations for the next round of Geneva talks, according to Kabul radio. Najibullah told the UN envoy that he hopes the next session in Geneva will be "the final round" that will achieve "basic agreements."

In another development, Kabul radio broadcast an official statement announcing the government's intention to withdraw its forces from the Gardeyz-Khowst highway to allow local tribes to return to their homes in the area. However, the government will maintain forces in several garrisons near the road and will take "resolute action" if "extremist" forces once again attempt to block the highway, the statement warned.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Holds Session in Tunis

Session Opens

JN231922 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Arab League Council emergency session opened a short while ago with 16 foreign ministers and representatives of 5 other states attending. Those attending are currently listening to a speech by the Council chairman, the Sudanese foreign minister, who will be followed by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, the UNRWA commissioner general, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. A closed session will then begin and continue until deliberations end and final recommendations and resolutions are issued.

In an arrival statement, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told me: We are determined to emerge with a unified, firm Arab stand to support the Palestinian people's uprising and we earnestly hope to reach this end.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister told me upon arrival: We have received a Palestinian working paper from the Arab League General Secretariat containing measures that should be taken. We will consider the paper in a positive spirit and hope to reach serious, effective resolutions to bolster the uprising and enable the Palestinian people to continue their struggle.

Responding to a question on Syrian-Iraqi relations, Tariq 'Aziz told me verbatim: There is nothing new in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Arab League Secretariat received a second working paper presented by Libya demanding the adoption of several resolutions: immediate financial support for continuing the uprising totaling $150 million to be given through the International Committee of the Red Cross and approximately $200 million in assistance annually.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who paid a brief visit to Saudi Arabia yesterday, arrived in Tunis later. He told our radio that he is carrying a Syrian working paper which proposes a general plan, including a number of resolutions and recommendations, the most important of which are pledging to support the uprising by all means, calling the UN Security Council to meet and adopt measures to end the Israeli occupation, and forming a committee of Arab foreign ministers whose task is to continue contacts with the UN Security Council members in an effort to end the occupation and confront Israel's daily violations of the Geneva conventions.

In the first development of its kind in the history of the Arab-Israeli dispute, Syria's resolutions call for forming a committee within the Arab League framework whose task will be to monitor and follow up Israel's serious violations in the occupied Arab territories and to inform the UN secretary general and the Security Council about them on an immediate, permanent basis. This means that for the first time the Arabs will deal with the methods of Israeli Nazism in the same way Israel is dealing with Hitlerite Nazism.

In short, tonight will be the Arab nation's night in support of the popular uprising. The Arab ministers must reach a unified formula and a firm stand, as they voiced in their statements, by coordinating and unifying the proposals presented in the PLO, Libyan, and Syrian working papers.

We will report significant developments to you in our later dispatches. This is Louis Faris reporting from the Arab foreign ministers conference building in Tunis.

Klibi, 'Arafat Speak

LD241022 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The proceedings of the extraordinary session of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council opened yesterday evening in Tunis under the chairmanship of the Sudanese foreign minister and in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general.

Chedli Klibi delivered a speech in which he recalled that the Arab League Council had held an extraordinary session and adopted a host of resolutions which were immediately put into implementation by member countries and the General Secretariat.

He noted that the Council has convened a meeting on the level of foreign ministers to reaffirm the Arab nation's solidarity with the Palestinian people, to ponder future horizons and the duties placed on our countries by this desperate struggle, as well as the tasks of the international community in view of its responsibility for the beginning of the Palestinian tragedy, and to require the international community to impose a political solution ending this calamity in accordance with principles and values regarded in the UN Charter as a basis for peoples' rights.

In his speech, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee stressed the need for Arab countries to do everything to support the Palestinian peoples' 1- and -1/2-month long uprising in the occupied territories and to secure its continuance until the achievement of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights of self-determination and an independent state on their national soil.

Saudi Prince Delivers Address

LD240946 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, announced that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has addressed messages to the permanent members of the UN Security Council warning against the situation resulting from the Israeli practices which contradict all international principles, values, and traditions. He calls on these countries to shoulder their responsibilities toward international peace and security by participating in finding a just, honorable, and permanent solution for the issue of the Palestinian people, which is the core of the conflict in the Middle East.

In his address last night at the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, which began yesterday in Tunis, his highness pointed out that the GCC in its recent meeting in Saudi Arabia proudly praised the heroic uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories and strongly condemned the oppressive measures used by Israel against the Palestinian people, who have been evicted from their land.

'Arafat Meets Libya's Al-Tahi

LD240938 Kuwait KUNA in English 0814 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, Jan 24 (KUNA)—Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has met with Libyan Foreign Minister Jadullah 'Azzuz al-Talhi who is currently participating in the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministrial Council. PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY (WAFA) said that the discussions last night between the two tackled the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands and ways to support it.

During the meeting of Arab foreign ministers which was held last night 'Arafat and Al-Talhi stressed the necessity of taking measures in support of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli suppression and emphasised the importance of providing Arab solidarity to confront challenges in the Arab arena.

The meeting between 'Arafat and Al-Talhi is the first of its kind since the eruption of tension between the PLO and Libya in 1982.

Drafting Committee Meets

JN241300 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Nabil Darwish dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The final session of the Arab foreign ministers meetings, scheduled to have begun 1 hour ago, has been delayed until 1330; that is, 30 minutes from now. The reason for the delay is the length of the drafting committee session, which began at 0800 today. The drafting committee will soon submit its recommendations to the Arab foreign ministers for approval and the recommendations will then become resolutions.

I have learned from sources close to the drafting committee that the discussion is progressing well and that the members of the committee paused only at certain details which have special significance. For instance, the PLO wanted to emphasize the unity of the Palestinian people outside and within the occupied territory by introducing a text which condemns hostile media that try to divide the Palestinian people into those inside the occupied territory and those outside with the aim of splitting their cause and undermining the unity of their representation. This is what a Palestinian source close to the drafting committee told me.

However, the Syrians and the Jordanians expressed some reservations about such a text. They pointed to world sympathy with the uprising and called for naming these media.

It appears that agreement is certain with regard to forming a ministerial committee that will follow up developments in the uprising and support it on an international level.

On the financial level, I learned from a source close to the drafting committee that agreement was reached on supporting the uprising through the PLO and international organizations and on allocating the sum of $100 million as an immediate contribution toward such a fund. The Syrians asked that financial support also be given to the Golan Heights and to all inhabitants of the territories occupied by Israel. In 30 minutes the ministers are scheduled to meet to approve the recomendations.

The UNRWA commissioner general, who attended the opening session yesterday, is carrying out intensive activity to obtain Arab financial support for UNRWA. In a statement to our radio, Giacomelli said that he is satisfied and optimistic. He reported that he had received $3 million in the form of token aid from Iraq and $5 million in cash from Kuwait. He added that he is continuing his endeavors with other Arab states to obtain more aid.

Syria's Al-Shar' Comments

JN241333 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The Arab Foreign Ministers Council today resumed the meetings of its extraordinary session held in support of the uprising of our Arab people in the occupied territory. In their closed session last night, the ministers proposed the formation of a drafting committee comprising Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq, and Jordan to prepare a joint working paper to be submitted to the Council during today's session.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said it is time for Egypt to sever all its relations with the Israeli enemy. He called on Arab governments that maintain diplomatic relations with Egypt to ask the Egyptian Government to sever all relations with Israel.

In his remarks during the extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis, Faruq al-Shar' added: We understood from the sister countries which restored relations with Cairo that their aim is not to leave Egypt for the Israelis but to free Egypt from Israeli influence. He said: If our children in the occupied Arab territory can confront Israel's iron strength with stones and burn its flag, then it is inconceivable that the Israeli flag should continue to fly in the capital of the largest Arab country.

Al-Shar' asserted that the struggle with the Zionist enemy is long and hard because Israel aims to abolish the history and future of the Arab nation. He said that the Arab-Israeli conflict differs from all other regional conflicts and disputes in the world in view of the fact that the Zionist entity's ambitions in Arab territory do not change with that entity's rulers, as the past 40 years have shown.

The foreign minister asked the Arab League Council to emphasize complete Arab solidarity with the uprising and to extend all forms of support to the uprising and to initiate a special fund for it. He also called on the Security Council, in the name of the Syrian Arab Republic, to shoulder its full responsibility to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territory and to adopt decisions and measures ensuring an end to Israeli occupation.

Al-Shar' added: What has happened and is happening in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon in the way of a clear rejection of Israeli occupation requires the Security Council and the international community to seek to bring an end to the occupation. They must not be content with condemnation and denunciation.

The foreign minister said that Israel's repressive and racist measures against Arab citizens require the formation of a committee within the framework of the Arab League to monitor and follow up Israel's serious violations, as such violations are war crimes and crimes against humanity. He called for monitoring such Israeli violations and gathering information on those responsible for such crimes and relaying such information promptly to the UN secretary general so that they can be circulated as official documents at the United Nations and considered at the appropriate time.

'Aziz Addresses Council

JN241439 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Tunis, 24 Jan (INA)—The drafting committee of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council met today to prepare the resolutions and recommendations to be issued by the Arab foreign ministers, who will discuss them during their second closed session later today. At the first closed session, which ended late last night, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a speech stressing Iraq's support for the PLO and the popular Palestinian uprising.

In his speech, 'Aziz said that on the anniversary of the Iraqi Army, President Saddam Husayn had urged the world to consider the meaning of the heroic positions of the Palestinian people. He affirmed that the most important lesson in the Palestinian uprising is that forces that deny peoples' rights, thinking repression and terrorism will change the course of history, are mistaken. The Zionists and the Tehran rulers—who are allied against the Arab nation, have ambitions on Arab lands, and are trying to establish false empires based on grudges, evil, and expansion—share the same intentions.

Tariq 'Aziz also stressed support for the proposals in the Palestinian working paper, as well as PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's proposal yesterday to form a follow-up committee for the Palestinian uprising. He called for continuous Arab action in both the militant and diplomatic arenas to support the Palestinian uprising. [passage omitted]

Council Adopts Resolutions

JN241907 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Nabih Darwish dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers concluded their extraordinary session on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories 2 hours ago by adopting resolutions stipulating the formation of a ministerial committee in charge of drawing up a joint Arab action plan to implement Arab resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This committee will also draw up a joint Arab position at the United Nations and hold contacts with officials from the UN Security Council permanent members, as well as other states, organizations, and bodies, to provide the maximum possible support for the Palestinian people's uprising and give a driving force to the process of a just and comprehensive peace through an international peace conference in accordance with Arab summit resolutions.

The ministerial committee comprises the foreign ministers of Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, the PLO, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. We have learned that the Saudi foreign minister asked to contact his government before finally agreeing to participate on the committee in view of his participation on the seven-member committee on the Gulf war and his responsibility within the GCC. In the event Saudi Arabia refuses to participate on the committee, Kuwait will replace it. Palestinian leader Yasir

'Arafat suggested the formation of such a committee in his opening speech yesterday. He proposed that it be similar to the seven-member Arab committee on the Iraq-Iran war.

The resolutions called on the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and adopt the necessary resolutions and measures to end the Israeli occupation. They also called on the United Nations to supervise the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination. They urged the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities toward Israel's violation of the fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians under occupation.

After greeting the Palestinian uprising, the resolutions stressed that material and political aid and the means of steadfastness and livelihood will continue to be provided for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. They also said that urgent financial aid will be extended via the PLO through the uprising fund set up by the PLO for this purpose, as well as through international organizations and committees.

The drafting committee had suggested earmarking $100 million as an urgent payment, but the ministers preferred not to fix a certain sum. They stressed that they are ready to provide everything necessary throughout the period of the uprising. Syrian Minister Faruq al-Shar' had asked that this aid be extended through the Arab League. He also called for mentioning the Golan and southern Lebanon, which were noted in a phrase in the resolutions that addressed the Council's emphasis on the unity of struggle being waged by the Arab people in Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon.

The issue which caused the discussion that prolonged the final session was a clause proposed by the Syrian representative on the drafting committee. It called on those Arab states that had restored diplomatic relations with Egypt to hold contacts with it in an effort to make it sever its ties with the Israeli authorities with the aim of terminating the occupation of Arab territories.

Some of the Arab ministers who refused to include this clause based their refusal on the fact that the Amman summit resolution on relations with Egypt considered the restoration of relations with Egypt an act of sovereignty. Moreover, some ministers said that this subject can be discussed within the framework of bilateral fraternal talks. When the debate became heated, the clause was put to a vote and was omitted with a majority of 14 votes.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who defended this clause, told our radio following the meeting that he is very satisfied with the Arab foreign ministers resolutions, which reflected 80 percent of the Syrian viewpoint. He added that Egypt is embarrassed by its relations with Israel at a time when Israel is coercing and torturing the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He called on Egypt to apply the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz was very satisfied with the results of the conference. He told us that the resolutions embodied a practical Arab commitment to support the uprising. He hoped that there would be a swift and practical implementation of the resolutions.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, was also satisfied with the resolutions which, he told us, reflected extreme Arab concern for the Palestine question.

Following this meeting, the ministers of the seven-member Arab committee went to the Iraqi ambassador's residence to discuss the committee's activities.

Jordan's Al-Masri Comments

JN241912 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the resolutions adopted by the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council are important for supporting the courageous uprising by the kinfolk in the occupied land on political and material levels. In a statement to a PETRA correspondent in Tunis after the Council meeting, Al-Masri added that resolutions were also made to support the steadfastness of the kinfolk which should enable the uprising to be sustained.

Given this unified and serious stand adopted by the Arab foreign ministers, the world and its international bodies, specifically the UN Security Council, must live up to their responsibilities and force on Israel acceptance of an international conference as the only appropriate vehicle, the minister said.

Al-Masri noted that the Council has formed a committee comprised of a number of Arab foreign ministers, including Jordan. It will meet soon to chart a strategy of action to unblock the peace process and promote a settlement through an international conference. He said that the uprising must be exploited in the interest of the goals it has set out to achieve—ending Israeli occupation and restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Seven-Member Committee Meets

JN241910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jan (INA)—The seven-member Arab committee, which is following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war, held a meeting immediately after the emergency session of the Arab League Council had concluded here this evening. An INA correspondent in Tunis said the committee will review its previous moves in the international arena and its achievements toward ending the Iraq-Iran war.

The committee will also discuss a new plan for its moves during the coming period, as well as the Iranian regime's continued aggression against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf region, its rejection of all international peace efforts, and its attempts to endanger security and peace in the region.

The committee is made up of the foreign ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the YAR, Tunisia, and Morocco, in addition to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

'Aziz on Committee Meeting

JN241916 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with the task of following up the Iraq-Iran war has decided to continue its political activity.

In a statement to INA following the committee meeting, 'Aziz said the committee will continue its activity as part of a plan to implement Security Council Resolution 598 as a whole. The resolution calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

'Aziz also pointed out that the committee had discussed the necessary steps to implement the second stage of the resolution, which calls for imposing sanctions against the side that insists on continuing the war. He added that the entire world knows of the Iranian regime's procrastination with regard to implementation of the resolution and ending its war against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries.

Iraq Gives $3 Million in Aid

JN242017 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced that Iraq has extended $3 million in urgent aid to the UNRWA. In a statement to INA following his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening, he said that he had conveyed a message to 'Arafat from President Saddam Husayn.

He added that the aid will help the UNRWA to extend its human services and will cover foodstuffs, medical supplies, and other equipment for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. 'Aziz also noted that the aid is symbolic of the Iraqi people's solidarity with the fraternal Palestinian people. It stresses the common Arab destiny in the face of aggression and challenges to the Arab nation and its future.

'Aziz on Resolutions

JN242125 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the resolutions of the Arab foreign ministers as positive, constructive, and supportive of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory—the uprising that has gained the support of all Arab masses.

In a press statement following the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting, 'Aziz expressed the hope that the practical steps that were agreed upon at this meeting will be implemented. He said: The Arab states have pledged to support the uprising and to carry out political activity to support the Palestinian question. He added: It is our duty as Arabs to extend all that the uprising needs in terms of aid and support to enable it to continue and to escalate.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Calls for 'International Protection'

LD231305 Kuwait KUNA in English 1108 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, Jan 23 (KUNA)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has said the current waves of protest against the Israeli occupation would continue until the occupation was eliminated and the Palestinians established their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. 'Arafat, in an interview published here Saturday in AL-SABAH newspaper, said he will tell Arab foreign ministers, who are meeting here tonight to discuss the uprising, that he would press for providing international protection to Arabs in the occupied territories.

He renewed his call for the deployment of international forces or observers in those areas "pending an end of the occupation...and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state." He added that he will also press for the convening of an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict to be attended by all parties involved including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

'Arafat said he will discuss with the Arab foreign ministers the possibility of forming a ministerial team to act at the international and Arab levels for ensuring continuation of the anti-occupation protests.

According to 'Arafat the uprising originally started in October, 1986 when Palestinians in the occupied territories demonstrated in protest against the siege laid to Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon by the Amal Movement. Since then, 'Arafat said, the uprising surged one time and ebbed another.

The PLO leader put the uprising's death toll at 83, adding that 806 others were wounded and about 7,000 people were detained in the past seven weeks of protests. "We take pride in the complete discipline of the strugglers who thus far had not used fire-arms against the occupation forces," he said.

'Arafat said the Israeli paratroopers commander received orders from Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to "break the bones of Palestinian protesters." Israeli press reports Friday said at least 197 Palestinians were hospitalized for treatment of bone fractures received in clashes with Israeli troops.

"I tell Rabin that the stone-throwing children will undoubtedly bury his arrogance and that those waves of the blessed uprising will continue until the end of the occupation and the establishment of our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," 'Arafat defiantly said.

PLO's Qaddumi, Al-Wazir Discuss 'Uprising'

LD231316 Kuwait KUNA in English 0914 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 23 (KUNA)—A top PLO official said in an interview published Saturday Palestinians who undermined Israel's political invariables with their anti-occupation uprising would not settle with the idea of an international conference to resolve the Palestinian question. "The international conference is no longer good enough to accommodate the Palestinians' demands," declared head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi in an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN.

The uprising, which Saturday entered its 8th week, had knocked down the 1967 occupation line and swept all occupied Palestine, sending clear message to the world community that the occupation must "inevitably" come to an end, Qaddumi said. The uprising had shaken many maxims and mirrored the Palestinian people's resolve to establish an independent state on its homeland, said Qaddumi who was interviewed during a recent visit to London.

It also made it clear beyond doubt that no Middle East peace settlement can see the light if it excludes Palestinians, according to the chief diplomat of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Qaddumi gave credit to the PLO for orchestrating the uprising saying the ongoing anti-occupation protests were the "fruit" of long years of armed struggle which began in 1965. But he made it a point to stress that no single Palestinian political group can claim the uprising to itself.

The uprising "grew in the lap of the comprehensive Palestinian revolution" Qaddumi said, adding that just in national revolutions all political forces join hands for liberation.

Another Palestinian leader, meanwhile said the uprising had dominated the Middle East political scene but he apparently differed with Qaddumi in assessing the potential viability of a Middle East peace conference. According to Deputy General Commander of the Palestinian Armed Forces Khalil al-Wazir, the international conference would be a vehicle for Palestinians to attain their right to an independent state, their ultimate goal.

In an interview with the same Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Wazir also emphasized that the Palestine Liberation Organization is heavily present in the current uprising in the occupied territories. He said Israeli reports trying to portray the uprising as the work of Muslim fanatics were intended to provoke European quarters which had condemned Israel's brutal handling of the massive protests.

Al-Wazir told AL-WATAN the PLO believes that developments of the uprising are the top political priority now. "Therefore, any talk of a government in exile or any other issue must be frozen as not to steal the limelight" from events in the occupied territories and dissipate the uprising's momentum.

The Palestinian military leader warned that Israel could let loose political trial balloons only to perpetuate its occupation of the Palestinian people. But he summed up what he saw as the only solution of the Palestinain question in saying: "The only (peace) path is that the occupation forces carry their rifles and leave. Gone are the days of international colonialism and it's the right of this (Palestinian) people to be free and that the Israeli occupation of it be eliminated."

PLO's Al-Surani on Perez de Cuellar Call

NC222031 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani, who is currently visiting Cairo, has expressed hope that the UN secretary general's request to the UN Security Council's five permanent members to start consultations for convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East will mark a new beginning for the Security Council in shouldering its responsibility stipulated in the UN Charter to eradicate the Palestinian people's 40-year-old grievance.

In the first Palestinian reaction to Perez de Cuellar's request, Al-Surani voiced hope that this step would be a prelude to the restoration of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, as well as the termination of Israel's oppressive practices.

Commenting on Israel's allegation that a Palestinian state would constitute a threat to its security, Al-Surani affirmed that events have proved that Israeli security is a myth. He noted that the October war and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories have eroded the credibility of this claim. He said: Real security lies with a peace based on justice and the non-use of armed force.

DFLP Leader Comments on 'Uprising' Goals

LD241242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1109 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 24 (KUNA)—A Palestinian leader said in a statement published here Sunday Israel would crack from inside if the current uprising in the occupied territories continued. Secretary General of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayif Hawatimah told the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS newspaper the uprising was the product of 20 years of organized revolutionary action.

The protests, he said, are being steered by "the unified national leadership in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem" where actions are being coordinated between Palestinians inside and those in other countries of the region. He dismissed Western reports which claimed that the uprising was "spontaneous," stressing that the allegation was intended to isolate Palestinians inside the occupied territories from their co-nationalists outside.

Hawatimah said the uprising's key goals were clearly defined from the start. "To end the Israeli occupation, secure deployment of an international force to oversee implementation of Geneva conventions in prelude to recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination."

He added that the massive protests had turned into "a war of attrition" draining the enemy's economic, financial and psychological strength. The uprising should continue until it achieves its political goals, Hawatimah said, emphasizing that Arab countries must place support for the revolt at the top of their priority lists.

PFLP Criticizes Mubarak Truce Proposal

NC222319 Paris AFP in English 2257 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 22 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on Friday accused Egyptian President Husni Mubarak of serving Israeli and U.S. interests by proposing a truce in the occupied territories. "This call is in the framework of U.S. and Israeli efforts aimed at defeating the uprising in the occupied territories which they have been unable to stop by force," the PFLP said in a statement issued here.

The PFLP also said Mr. Mubarak's proposal put Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, "which repress, kill and starve the population," on an equal footing with "the unarmed Palestinian people." Israeli forces have killed more than 35 Palestinians since demonstrations and clashes started there on December 9.

Mr. Mubarak called on Israel and the Palestinians to halt the violence in the occupied territories for six months to clear the way for renewed Middle East peace efforts, in an interview published Friday by THE WASHINGTON POST. He said a five-point peace initiative including the truce had been drafted after conferring last week with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The plan calls for the Palestinians to stop all violent acts against the Israelis in return for an agreement by Israel to halt new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, according to THE WASHINGTON POST. "I know that not everybody will agree to this at first and that I will be criticized," said Mr. Mubarak. "But we cannot sit by with our hands folded when the alarm is ringing. Perhaps this proposal can turn the wheel of the peace process."

'Showdown' Occurs Between Abu Nidal Factions

LD241845 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1745 GMT 24 Jan 88

[By Dejan Lukic]

[Text] Tripoli, Jan 24 (TANJUG)—A fierce internal differentiation took place in the most extremist secret Palestinian organization, Abu Nidal's Al-Fatah Revolutionary Council, late last year and the showdown between two factions ended with a victory for Abu Nidal. The time has come to shed more light on the developments of and around the "Saint Bartholomew's Day."

The south Lebanese town of Sidon was the scene of the showdown where the Revolutionary Council's Central Committee held a secret meeting in Abu Nidal's absence early last December. His opponents openly asked at the meeting whether the organization was losing its identity as a result of the loss of radical orientation.

The "dissenters" asked Abu Nidal's supporters a series of critical questions, including why Abu Nidal reconciled and embraced with Yasir 'Arafat at the session of the Palestine National Council last year. The hardened hawks argued that the move had resulted in a twofold damage to the organization.

Firstly, in a loss of credibility among the rank and file where the Council has been building its image precisely on radicalism and it also damaged the struggle (physical liquidation) against 'Arafat's "defeatists and traitors."

Secondly, by accepting cooperation with PLO's institutions (in Algeria), the group was forced to break cover to some extent and was thus placed in jeopardy.

They also asked why was Abu Nidal's organization forced to leave Syria, its secure stronghold near Palestine, and who was responsible for this.

According to unimpeachable sources, Abu Nidal and his group recently lost Syria's hospitality after an "intelligence incident." They say that Syria's intelligence service recently caught one of Abu Nidal's activists with plans of Syria's vital military facilities. Damascus claimed that the Revolutionary Council had no need at all for that type of "material" which could only serve Israel or some other intelligence service.

Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal) was informed about everything that went on in Sidon and gave a go-ahead for a new meeting there to clear up the controversy.

The group of hawks that started the debate at the previous meeting showed up, but, on entering a room, were only able to notice that the other side still had not arrived. Within seconds, it was too late, however, to change anything: The discussion that was to resolve oustanding questions was stunningly brief and bloody as the present half of the quorum found itself amid a shower of bullets and grenades.

Sabri al-Banna remained the undisputed leader of the group and also stuck to his thesis that things had to be straightened out in this way because Israel's or Jordan's (or both together) intelligence services had penetrated the organization's ranks.

Egypt

Major Government Reshuffle Expected By March

NC251008 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
22 Jan 88 pp 1, 9

[Amin Radwan report from Cairo]

[Text] Sources close to the decisionmakers in Egypt stated yesterday that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will appoint Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah as vice president of the Republic. The sources noted that this will come as part of a major government reshuffle that will take place before March.

It is worth noting in this respect that the post of vice president, which Mubarak used to occupy during the rule of former President Anwar al-Sadat, has remained vacant since Mubarak came to power in October 1981 following his predecessor's assassination. This has raised numerous questions about the current president and his relationship with his defense minister.

Abu Ghazalah, however, has always been the strongest candidate to fill this post, which would give him the right to succeed Mubarak in the event the president's post became unexpectedly vacant.

The sources further reported that the expected cabinet reshuffle will include Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and most of the members of his current government, which was formed on 11 November 1986 to succeed Dr 'Ali Lutfi's government.

The sources expected one of the two following NDP leaders to succeed Sidqi: Yusuf Wali, the NDP secretary general, or 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of local administration [title as published]. The sources also said that the new government will include for the first time the post of minister of state for Arab and African cooperation. They added that the new government will not include Planning Minister Kamal al-Janzuri, Interior Minister Zaki Badr, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid (this is at his own request for health reasons), Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, Minister of State for War Production Dr Jamal Al-Sayyid Ibrahim, Minister of State for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs Dr Ahmad Salamah Muhammad, and Minister of Manpower and Training 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq Salih.

The sources expect a number of other political figures in the ruling NDP to assume ministerial posts in the new government. Among these are Kamal al-Shadhili, the NDP organization secretary; 'Abd al-Ahad Jamal al-Din; Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; and Dr Samir Tubar, chairman of the ruling party's economic committee.

Full Diplomatic Relations Restored With Tunisia

NC231234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT
23 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—The Governments of Egypt and Tunisia have decided to resume full diplomatic relations effective today.

The two governments issued the following statement on this occasion: In view of the fateful ties that have linked the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Tunisia and their fraternal peoples throughout history; in light of their growing bilateral relations; and out of their desire to consolidate these relations and exploit them in the service of the two countries and the Arab Nation, the governments of the two countries have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations effective today.

Mubarak Outlines Palestinian Peace Initiative

NC221800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 22 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has announced that his initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue calls for the parties concerned to halt various forms of violence in the occupied territories for 6 months, during which the following would be done:

1. All settlement operations would cease;

2. The Palestinian people's political rights and basic freedoms under the Israeli occupation would be respected;

3. The Palestinian people's safety and security under the Israeli occupation would be guaranteed by a suitable international force;

4. Efforts to convene an international peace conference with a view to reaching a comprehensive and peaceful settlement, which would provide for the recognition of the rights of all the states of the region to live in peace, as well as of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, would be undertaken.

President Mubarak revealed this in an interview he granted to Jim Hoagland, WASHINGTON POST deputy editor in chief. The interview appeared in the newspaper's issue today, and filled six columns on its major world news page, with a photograph of President Mubarak on top.

The president's initiative emphasizes the need to immediately resume the peace process for the benefit of all parties concerned. The initiative further notes that this need has been proved by the current serious incidents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In his interview, the president expressed conviction that the United States cannot make the elections the most important issue, as this would leave it with no time to revive the peace process.

The president described the current disturbances in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories as "the alarm bell which cannot be ignored."

President Mubarak affirmed his confidence in Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who approves of the idea of an international conference and of holding a private dialogue with him. However, the president said: I do not understand Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, nor do I understand his fears in connection with an international conference.

Touching on the Egyptian-U.S. proposal to cooperate in the manufacture of the M-1 tank in Egypt, the president said that this very effectively symbolizes the cooperation that is required to achieve balance, particularly since the United States is manufacturing several weapons in Israel.

Commenting on the ongoing conflict in the Gulf region and the possibility of sending Egyptian fighting units to the area, the president said: The Gulf countries do not require additional land forces, nor do they want to escalate the Iraq-Iran war in any way. The president added that each of these countries has its own character and its own approach to dealing with tension. He continued: I do not believe that these countries need foreign troops on their land. All they need is air defense. We gained experience in the October 1973 war and the war of attrition, and we will not hesitate to offer our experience if it is needed, he added.

Al-Baz, Israel's Tamir Meet in Paris 23 Jan

NC241926 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Paris, 24 Jan (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, in Paris yesterday, Saturday.

The meeting came as part of the efforts being made to give an impetus to the Middle East peace process. It took place in light of the peace initiative which President Husni Mubarak announced on Friday.

Dr al-Baz arrived in Paris 2 days ago. He left for the United States yesterday morning to prepare for President Mubarak's visit to Washington this week.

Israeli 'Security Buffer Zone' Plan Criticized

PM221639 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20 Jan 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Rejects Security Buffer Zone"]

[Text] On the basis of the information it possesses, Egypt has officially informed the Israeli Government of its outright rejection of and protest against Israel's projected setting up of a "security buffer zone" between the Egyptian and Palestinian borders under the mandate and between the Egyptian and Israeli borders. This is tantamount to a long strip consisting of special high-explosive mines as a security belt, and likewise on the Jordanian borders with the West Bank.

Egypt has confirmed this as a breach of Egyptian-Israeli relations, and regards it as an aggressive action directed against Egypt and Jordan and a clear expression of Israeli intentions which Egypt knows well.

Egypt has stressed this point in the protest that its ambassador in Tel Aviv delivered to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Egypt pointed out the experience of the Bar-Lev line, which did not prevent the Egyptian troops from crossing the canal and sweeping the line away and destroying it.

Mubarak Begins Multi-Country Tour 25 Jan

Leaves for FRG

NC250710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife left Cairo for Bonn this morning to begin a tour of the FRG, the UK, the United States, France, Italy, and Morocco.

The president is accompanied by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development.

President Mubarak was seen off by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, People's Assembly speaker; Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Consultative Council speaker; Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; and other cabinet ministers.

Mubarak's departure was also attended by the governors of Cairo and Al-Jizah; the FRG, British, and French ambassadors; the U.S., Italian, and Moroccan charges d'affaires; and senior Armed Forces officials.

Tour To Underline Exchanges
NC241658 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will leave Cairo tomorrow for the FRG on the first leg of a tour that will include the FRG, the UK, the United States, France, Morocco, and Italy.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the tour underlines the importance which Egypt attaches to President Mubarak's exchanges with European, U.S., and Moroccan leaders.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid reported that the president will discuss a number of regional and international issues during his tour. Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted that the timing of President Mubarak's peace initiative underscores Egypt's regional role. He added that the situation in the Gulf gives rise to concern. President Mubarak's successful tour of Gulf countries, he said, produced satisfactory results and illustrated the strong rapport between Egypt and its Arab sisters. Further evidence of this rapport, 'Abd al-Majid stated, was provided by yesterday's decision by Tunisia to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt, a decision we wholeheartedly welcome.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, and international reaction to it, prove that peace efforts must be doubled. President Mubarak's initiative, he added, stems from Egypt's desire to bring about a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Egypt is calling for an international conference for Middle East peace because it believes that this is the only way to attain peace. 'Abd al-Majid said that President Mubarak's initiative should be seen as a complete and indivisible program. The initiative, he asserted, aims at ending Israeli repressive measures in the occupied territories and at activating a certain movement toward peace in the area.

Makramallah Leaves For United States 24 Jan
NC240748 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, left for Washington this morning to prepare for the talks President Mubarak will hold with U.S. oficials during his upcoming visit to the United States.

During his stay in Washington, Dr Makramallah will also meet with a number of U.S. Aid agency officials and discuss with them economic topics related to the U.S. aid program to Egypt for the next fiscal year.

'Abd al-Majid on Coming Mubarak-Hassan Meeting
LD231945 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 23 (MAP)—The meeting between President Husni Mubarak and King Hassan II during the upcoming visit of the Egyptian head of state to Morocco will gather "two brothers united by friendship and esteem ties", Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has said.

In a statement to the "MAP" bureau here, 'Ismat 'Abd al- Majid added "The Egyptians are proud of Morocco and its people and appreciate the esteem and friendship of Moroccans for Egypt", adding that the visit of Mubarak to Morocco early next month will further strengthen ties between the two countries.

The visit will also enable the two parties to look into several issues relating to the Arab and Islamic worlds and Africa, he said, adding Egypt and Morocco share the same viewpoints on these questions and "can play a key role to take up the different challenges these regions are faced with".

He also added that the tour of Mubarak to European and American countries will be an oppportunity for the Egyptian president to expound the stand of Egypt vis-a-vis the initiative of peace in the Middle East, the Palestinian cause, the Gulf war.

Mubarak Phones Jordan's Husayn, Exchanges Views
NC232004 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has telephoned His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and exchanged views on regional issues and on President Mubarak's latest initiative on the Middle East issue. They also exchanged (?views) on a number of Arab matters.

Mubarak Phones Condolences to Iraqi President
NC231825 Cairo MENA in 9Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to inquire about the situation in Iraq and to offer his condolences on the deaths caused by a recent helicopter crash. The two presidents also exchanged views on several issues of concern to their two countries.

Mubarak Receives YAR Envoy, Visit Invitation
NC231349 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, envoy of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, at the

Presidential Office in Heliopolis. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Mutahhar Muhammad al-Mutahhar, chief of the YAR interests section in Egypt, were both present at the meeting.

Following the session, Al-Ahmar said that he had handed Mubarak a message from the YAR president in which he renewed his invitation for President Mubarak to visit and underlined the need for closer cooperation in all fields, including security in the Red Sea and the Gulf.

Al-Ahmar said that President Mubarak will decide on the exact time of the visit, expected in April or May. The YAR envoy added that Egyptian and YAR officials are engaged in continuing consultations. Egypt is our second home, and we cooperate in many areas, Al-Ahmar said.

YAR Envoy Departs 24 Jan

NC240656 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Ahmar, special envoy of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit during which he handed a message to President Mubarak from the YAR president.

Mubarak Receives Message From King Fahd 24 Jan

NC241857 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

As'ad Abu al-Nasr, the Saudi ambassador in Cairo, conveyed the message when President Mubarak received him at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis tonight.

Troops Reportedly Sent 'Secretly' to Gulf States

LD232337 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 23, IRNA—The Egyptian regime secretly dispatched 13,000 troops to Kuwait and Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) last November in accordance with a plan designed by the U.S. War Department, said a report published by the Lebanese weekly AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI here Saturday.

The report said the Egyptian ruler Husni Mubarak's coming visit to the U.S. following the implementation of the Pentagon plan indicates efforts to renew the role played by Anwar al-Sadat.

As per the plan 13,000 Egyptian soldiers, mainly paratroopers have arrived in Kuwait and Hijaz in November under various guises, most of whom are stationed in Kuwait while the rest are deployed in Saudi Arabia's Jubayl region on the Persian Gulf, the report said.

The weekly, referring to the crisis facing the Cairo regime, said that the measure was taken under U.S. pressure and that it was an appeasement paid by Mubarak for his upcoming visit to Washington.

AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI also quoted high ranking American officials as saying that Mubarak had frightened Egyptian factions opposing the Camp David accord by saying that Israel would eliminate Egypt with a nuclear bomb if it abrogates the treacherous accord.

Scientific Research Minister Returns From Jordan

NC221919 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research, returned to Cairo from Jordan this evening. During his 5-day official visit to Jordan, he held talks with the Jordanian ministers of energy, higher education, and agriculture. [passage omitted]

OAU Secretary General Arrives for Jubilee

NC241812 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou arrived in Cairo from Addis Ababa tonight on a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his visit he will take part in the OAU jubilee festivities which will begin in Cairo tomorrow.

In an arrival statement, Oumarou expressed his pleasure at being in Egypt, a country which plays a key Arab and African role. He also praised Egypt's contribution to economic and political efforts in the continent.

Ambassador Nabil al-Silawi, head of the African Desk at the Foreign Ministry, welcomed the OAU secretary general upon his arrival.

Religious Extremists Arrested for Arson Attack

NC231335 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution today ordered 15-day detentions of three religious extremists for interrogation. The three were arrested at dawn yesterday when, bearing arms, they tried to force their way into a nightclub in Al-Jizah to burn it down.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Tripoli Students

LD212336 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2040 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at 21 January meeting with students in Tripoli—recorded]

[Text] All those who are members of a revolutionary committee, raise your hand. [chants] The reason for this meeting is that the youths who are at your stage—

intermediate education, secondary, or other—who are at this level, who about to enter a university or graduate and enter into employment, I have noticed that a period has passed without sufficient revolutionary mobilization, even as the challenges and battles continue around us. I do not feel that there is sufficient mobilization to confront these challenges.

Political and revolutionary awareness is needed to confront the enemies and to defeat them. It is you who will fight the coming battle. We must teach you, and you must learn to rely on yourselves in deciding your fate, exercising authority, carrying out defense, and making material progress. This is your responsibility, not that of your families or grandfathers. You are the ones who face this battle. Sometimes one is mistaken and believes that the matter does not concern him, that the battle is not his battle. One relies on his father, his grandfather, his uncle. He believes that they are responsible; but in fact, you are responsible for your fate. You are responsible for the fate of this generation.

When they say the liberation of Palestine, do you think that someone is going to liberate it on your behalf? You are the ones who will liberate it, if you want to liberate it; or you are the ones who will give it up. The confrontation with the United States as an enemy determined to destroy the Arabs, to eliminate them and occupy their land, and to back the Jews to the utmost to enable them to control the Arab homeland—you are the ones who will defeat them. If you languish and grow weak, then they will triumph over you also. We want to remove from your minds the belief that there is someone who will act on your behalf, or that if a defeat or a disaster or any stumbling should occur in your life, that this does not concern you.

As if anything bad that occurs in the future happens to other people, not you [passage indistinct] This is the spirit of indifference. It is not the truth. It is ignorance and foolishness. Therefore, you would be foolish to think that this enemy is not after us, to think that anything that might happen in the future, whether good or bad, does not concern us. To think that the people who are struggling now and who are at the forefront are the ones responsible and that the results, good or bad, will be reflected on them, is wrong. The people who are struggling now, like us, are struggling for your benefit, not for their own benefit. You are the ones who in the future are going to marry and have children, and your children will have children, and you are also going to live through the coming stage, with its good and bad points. Thanks are due the people who are now defending you in Aozou and the Gulf of Sidra and who are fighting political or revolutionary battles and battles of economic construction. In fact, even the farms that the people are planting and the agricultural projects and the factories are for you. They exist so that you can eat and drink and have tools and equipment in your hands. You must understand these things.

I do not think that this feeling exists. There is no strong feeling of this. This a danger that threatens the future. This is indifference. Indifference is fatal. Therefore, we must warn this new generation, which is the future, against this dangerous aspect, the feeling of indifference. Who are you relying on? There is nobody to rely on.

You can rely on God. That is different. However, even relying on God requires commitment: You must have will, commitment, and decisiveness; after that, you can rely on God. Then, when thou hast made a decision, put thy trust in God. [Koranic verse] This does not mean that you have no decisions to make or that you are not committed to march and struggle and work, or that you can say simply: I rely on God. Relying on God must be coupled with commitment: When thou hast made a decision; this is the condition. Therefore, the condition is to make a decision. Making a decision means commitment and resolution. Then you rely on God after that. But indifference is a dangerous thing. There is a feeling of indifference. This feeling results from the fact that there are things that become available to you without any effort, and you think that heaven rains manna and quails or gold and silver.

This is why I would like you to think seriously about your future. There is no time now for indifference. You have reached an age at which you must think about that. There is a long and difficult march ahead of us. In order to get rid of these difficulties, we must resort to revolutionary action, not just traditional action. Therefore, the overwhelming majority of you must be members of revolutionary committees. Even more, we can not do without the revolutionary committees in such circles of youths, boys and girls, at these intermediate colleges and in intermediate education. The generations in them are supposed to be revolutionary generations. We should be able to come to a class of 1,000 and ask: Who is not a member of a revolutionary committee? and see no one raise his hand. All of them should be members of the revolutionary committee. This would mean that revolutionary awareness had reached a stage at which the revolutionary committee disappeared. Similar to the basic people's congress.

If this is were a basic people's congress, we would find that 10 of its members were members of the revolutionary committee who were the instigators and movers and the ones who had awareness. They would be the ones who instigate and move this basic people's congress to exercise authority. We said that this was acceptable because the basic people's congress consists of a generation different from yours. The revolutionaries in that generation are naturally a minority. In this way we carried out the revolution. We were a group, not large, within the Army or within the Libyan people as a whole. At that time there was no readiness for the revolution. There was only the vanguard who were, according to their own nature, ready for action. Now the basic people's congress is backward to a great extent, and in it illiteracy and ignorance prevail.

But if there is a basic people's congress made up of the students in front of me, then it will be different from the basic people's congress in the street. When I ask: Who is a member of the revolutionary committee, then everyone should raise his hand, all of you should be revolutionaries. We say: In the future the revolutionary committee will disappear within the basic people's congress. This will happen when the basic people's congress reaches the level of the revolutionary committee. This is in the future, when the people's awareness reaches the level of the revolutionary committee now. You are supposed to have reached this level. Your awareness is supposed to reach the level of any revolutionary. Why is it that one young man is a revolutionary and another is not? The one who is not a revolutionary is someone who does not understand. Does not understand means backward.

How can any of you accept to be backward, not to understand, and to be marginal and worthless? This is impossible. This is a shame, especially at your level. Any of you, boys and girls, who is not a member of a revolutionary committee admits that his or her ideas are backward, that he is a reactionary, and that he has not tried to understand revolutionary theory and does not know that revolutionary theory is his weapon and the means by which to understand his cause. We said that your cause is your freedom, your food, your drink, your happiness, your dignity. This is to live proudly on earth. When we talk about pride, land, dignity, freedom, and independence, we are talking about revolution. We are talking about the essence of revolutionary theory. This is revolutionary theory. This is the revolution. It is the same as the words we are uttering. If you do not understand their meaning, then you will not understand the things that concern you. Your freedom concerns you, your dignity concerns you; so does your food and drink and the security in your town, street, and home. When you understand this, then this is revolutionary understanding and revolutionary awareness.

How can anybody not understand these things? Anyone who does not understand them is not a revolutionary and is a reactionary. It means that he does not understand his future and does not understand his situation.

Relying on Turkey is what made us fall into the hands of the Italians. We paid the price, not Turkey. Have you seen what happens to those who rely on others, those who leave everything open? They are our ancestors, who paid the price. They relied on Turkey to defend us; they relied on the sultan and the state that rules and the governor. Then the sultan left us, the governor left us, and Turkey left us. We paid the price with our lives.

Our ancestors confronted the Italians face to face. They were not ready for the Italians, and they did not know the Italians at all. They were so ignorant and stupid that they did not know about a country called Italy across the sea which had colonial ambitions in Libya. They did not know it. Look where ignorance led the ignorant! It led them to death. Loads of martyrs, because an enemy came to their home. The Libyans did not even know the map. They did not know from where the Italians came from. The Italians came from Italy, but where is Italy? They did not know. Why did they come? They did not know. Until when? They did not know. Who are the Italians and who are those with them? They did not know. You Libyans, who are your allies and who is with you? By God, they did not know. They did not know about the treaty between the sultan and the Italians. They did not know about the Ottoman empire at that time. They did not know the signs of World War I. They did not know the colonialist ambitions and the treaties between the big nations on dividing the world and spheres of influence, and that Libya was within Italy's share, Algeria within France's, and Egypt and Sudan within Britain's. They did not know these things. This is foolishness. They were fools. They were ignorant. What are the reasons? The reasons that made them backward and ignorant are known. The first is, naturally, Turkish colonialism. But the nature of the era also was that people were ignorant. I mean ignorance, foolishness, and unawareness, to what do they lead? You will pay the price from your inheritance. Reliance on others; look at its result.

We are now fighting this spirit, because I feel that this spirit of indifference exists. You rely on Mu'ammar, you rely on such-and-such a person, and this and that, and the Armed Forces. Why do you rely on them? You are Mu'ammar, you are the Armed Forces, you are your own future, and you are everything. Starting today [words indistinct] and leave them in this hall, and no one should rely on anyone but himself. This generation relies only on himself.

The Arabs, who number 150 million, what did they do for the Palestinians who they see everyday on television? There is nothing but video footage about the Palestinians these days. What do the Arabs do? They cross their legs, smoke, and get drunk and watch the television because there are films about persecuting the Palestinians.

All right, maybe the Palestinians have been relying upon an Arab nation and saying to themselves: Where is the Arab nation and what has it done for us? Maybe if the Palestinians were fighting with arms and were on the verge of a win, then the Arabs might take up arms and aid them. It means that everything depends on you if you are serious in your struggle and you are near enough to achieving a triumph. Then allies and friends will join you. But if you are on the way to losing, they will abandon you. If you are weak, they will abandon you too. The Israelis are strong; they have money and gold. They control the world and Zionism is in control. Everybody is afraid of them and therefore they are trying to flatter the Zionists and support them. The Palestinians are, however, wary, and therefore there is nobody who will sympathize with them, even though there is repression against them. Sympathy is always with the Jews and the Zionists. Why? Because the whole world is afraid of Zionism. It does not rely upon the world, it frightens it.

Upon whom would you rely if you stop your studies? Upon whom would you rely if you fail in your studies? This matter, the matter of dependence upon people, should be stopped as of today. Leave such dependence to one side and rely upon yourselves. You should know that the future of the people's authority is your future; the authority will be yours. All the factories, whether planned or under construction, whether they are profitable or not, are all your factories; they are the factories of tomorrow. The lands being reclaimed, the farms being started, our directives to plant and look after olive trees, for whom are all these? They are for you. You must understand this. When someone says today let us plant some vegetables here, is he planting it for your forefathers?

No, he is planting for you. Yes, you should say this is right and these are the ideas of the future. The coastline should be planted with date palms; date palms for whom? For this generation. You should not henceforth use sun-dried bricks to build here instead of growing date palms because the sun-dried bricks are for the one who is alive today, as the house built of sun-dried bricks might not be there later. It means that the house is only for the person who exists today. But these date palms are for you, the generation of the future.

When we say: Do not build a house, plant date palms, we mean that we are thinking of your future. When we say the coastline should be cultivated and housing construction must stop there and more care should be accorded to it, we are saying: To care for it for whom? For the future. Who is the future? You. Well, this should be a matter of your concern. But if you are stupid and what I am saying disappears with the wind and you are unable to understand it, then you would become indifferent and say: What is all this about olive trees and the cultivation of the coastline [words indistinct] all this we are saying now about date palms, olive trees, the cultivation of the coastline, water for the future and oil mean that we are talking about your own future. You should be thankful to him [Al-Qadhdhafi], repeat his words, and answer his calls [words indistinct]. Whatever destroys the coastline will destroy your future, will make you hungry.

When you feel hunger, you will stretch out your hands, stretch out your hands abroad. And this foreigner to whom you stretch your hand will not give you charity. What he gives you is in return for your freedom and dignity. The United States starves people and when they stretch out their hands, the United States says: Sell me your land, your dignity, your resources, leave your political decision to me, and we will give you wheat. When the people begin to stretch out their hands to America, when they feel hunger, they will be conceding everything. The hungry say feed me and [words indistinct]. This is what happened.

I know that there is no one at present showing interest in this talk who is willing to say so. Had I known that your families tell you this and that the school tells you this in a serious way, one would not have come and tired himself talking to you about this subject. But I know that there is a great failing in this aspect. Consequently, it is my duty to tell you this, to this generation in particular, at this stage. The challenges we are talking about are challenges to you. When they say the Libyans should not learn about the atom—America expelled the Libyan students studying the atom—what does this mean? It means they should not use the atom, which is the effective force in the coming age, and which is, in war and peace, the effective force. It is depriving this new generation of owning this effective force. The United States does not talk about one who is 70 or 80 years old to deprive him, it talks about you. When it deprives the Libyans of studying the atom, it deprives you of using it in your future, in your lives, in your days, the days of your sons and grandsons.

Thus, the United States is fighting you. Now it is possible for it to deceive and say: I am fighting Al-Qadhdhafi. In fact, the United States is fighting you. What does it mean to fight Al-Qadhdhafi? The United States fought 'Abd al-Nasir and 'Abd al-Nasir died, and they took Egypt. Why did they not say: 'Abd al-Nasir died, we used to hate 'Abd al-Nasir. He died, then farewell, between us two brothers and two grandfathers. They said: Did 'Abd al-Nasir die? The Egyptians answered yes, and the Israelis and the Americans entered Egypt. Did you not say you were looking for 'Abd al-Nasir? They said: Yes we are looking for 'Abd al-Nasir. Well, he died, then goodbye. Did they not say if 'Abd al-Nasir dies, we will leave you? They said no, the truth is 'Abd al-Nasir was preventing us from entering Egypt and now that he is dead we will enter Egypt. We want Egypt, we do not want 'Abd al-Nasir.

'Abd al-Nasir was an obstacle in our way. Here are the Jews taking the oil, taking the iron, tourism, normalization, alliance with the Americans, the maneuvers, the plundering of all Egyptian resources, and the starving of the Egyptian people. In the end, Egypt became a U.S.-Israeli base used for their imperialist policy in the world. This is an old objective. They said: We want Egypt to be a base for U.S. imperialism, a base for the West, a base for Zionism, not to threaten Zionism, not to threaten the Israelis in Palestine. This is the objective. 'Abd al-Nasir prevented us from achieving this objective. He fights the Israelis, fights the Americans, he fights the Western countries, he liberates the Arab homeland, unites the Arabs, and all this is against our interests. We want the Arab world to be disunited, torn apart, weak.

We would like to cross this Arab homeland. We want to cross it from the east to the west, from the north to the south, and from the west to the east. This is a crossing region. If someone comes to dispute over it with me, I would say no to him. We want one independent strong united Arab nation. Brother Arab, raise your head in pride. We want the Arabs to lower their brows. That is why we fought 'Abd al-Nasir. We started to fight him. Then he died. God be praised. We are fulfilling our aims.

Let us cross this bridge, desecrate it, and desecrate Egypt, make Egypt hungry so that Egypt will become in need of American wheat. Then we will impose our will on Egypt. If we are to give you wheat, then you must give us your dignity and land, and Egypt will become a base for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in the Arab region and in the world. Egypt will give the Israelis breathing space in order to settle its accounts with the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian peoples. When they become secure while Egypt protects them from the south as they settle the north, then they can go back to the south and take Egypt. This is our policy.

'Abd al-Nasir was against this policy. So we fought him. But it's all right, he has died. We are fulfilling our aims. It was a trick. They used to say to them: Without 'Abd al-Nasir you have no problems. They said to the Israelis: This means that without 'Abd al-Nasir, the Israelis could take Egypt without resistance. To the Americans, without 'Abd al-Nasir, the United States can come peacefully and take Egypt without resistance. Correct, no problem.

Is there a problem now between Egypt and the Americans? By God, no. They are quite harmonious. What is this harmony? The Americans entered without resistance. Egypt is open for the Americans. The fools used to say after getting rid of 'Abd al-Nasir that there would be no problems with the Americans and Israelis. This means that you go away from us and do not come near us. [Words indistinct] he died. Stay away in your countries. They said: No, we want your countries, but he was stopping us. After he died we came to take your countries. God be praised, we were welcomed as we entered because there is no one now to resist us; he used to resist us, but now no one resists us. Now American [words indistinct] and Israel now you hear them, you can hear them every day: By God, we have no problem with the Libyan people, we have a problem with Al-Qadhdhafi. Correct. This is right. If we get rid of Al-Qadhdhafi, we can take the Libyan people.

It is impossible that they are looking for one person because he is a single person whose weight is such-and-such and his height is so-and-so and is flesh and blood. They are not looking for that. Definitely he is depriving them of something, or they want something from him. That is it. He is depriving us of Libya. We want Libya. Why does he stop us? We will attack him. The attack is not against him as flesh and blood. No, the attack is against the things behind him. If we get rid of him, we can enter the Gulf of Sidra and carry out our maneuvers. [chants: All the revolutionaries are Mu'ammar, and anyone who is hostile to us will be destroyed]

The Americans want to enter here, here at this point. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing at positions on a map of the Arab world behind him] They want to enter this point and put their positions there. We said no to them. They said all right, we will attack Al-Qadhdhafi. They do not want to attack Al-Qadhdhafi, they want to take this position. Al-Qadhdhafi is a person like anyone else. But through this point they want this Gulf and they want this region to camp in and to carry out their maneuvers in. If they enter here, this will be as though we never evicted them from Al-Mallahah, Al-Watiyah, Tajura', Sidra, and Bir al-Usta Milad, and those five bases which existed in the past. It would be exactly as if we had not evicted them if the Americans were to return here to this position. It would be exactly as if they were on the Libyan coast as before. This means that there would be no Eviction Day, and we would have to stop celebrating 11 June, the anniversary of the evacuation of the U.S. bases.

If they were to return to the Gulf of Sidra, to this place, then that would be it, they would be using Libya again. The Gulf of Sidra is inside Libya. Here. The Americans want to come here, to rid us of Al-Qadhdhafi. What they mean is not to rid us of Al-Qadhdhafi—what would they want of Al-Qadhdhafi? They mean they want to rid us of him so that we may reach this point. All right, let us take Aozou. They could not take the Gulf, so they came from the south to take Aozou. The important thing is to keep attacking Libya, either from the south or the north. They exert pressure on Libya either from the south or the north; that is, they exert pressure either from here or from there, or perhaps from both sides, perhaps from both sides. If Aozou is to be taken by Chad now, remember that Chad is under French, American, Israeli, and Egyptian control, because the Americans and Israelis gave their orders to the rulers of Egypt to fight against Libya from Ndjamena. [chants] If Aozou is to belong to Chad, and Chad is as it is now, then Aozou could become a U.S. base, a French base, an Israeli base, or an Egyptian base.

If we say Egyptian, we mean an American base. Egyptian only in name. The Americans want to construct a base. If someone says no to them, then they would want to get rid of him. The Americans are looking for a person called Al-Qadhdhafi who comes to them with a pistol or rifle and invites them for a duel anywhere in the world, then they say we want to get rid of him, this would be no problem. But after that, they would say, we do not want him personally, but we want this country and this nation in order to corrupt them. We want its fate to be similar to the fate of Egypt after 'Abd al-Nasir. This is what they think. What I say now is you should not rely on Al-Qadhdhafi or anyone else. This is a person and he will eventually end. The ones who should say no are you because this Gulf is your Gulf, and Aozou is yours and the future is yours.

This is one of the things I told you about, the indifference that should end. It should remain in this classroom, in this hall; you must leave without it, this indifference. You are the ones who should say no. You are the ones who should know that the Americans, if they come here, will constitute a danger to your lives. In this region they will carry out their maneuvers. Understand this, then you will spontaneously say no. It will not be Mu'ammar who says no, but it will be you who say no.

You should say no because this concerns you too. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi looking behind him to a map and pointing out Aozou] This is Aozou here with its mountains. If they are to fall under American control, this would mean that all of Libya will be under U.S. control. They might build on it military bases, satellite stations, spying centers, lasers, electronics, and any other calamity. When you understand this you yourselves would say no. Even if someone says yes you should still say no; someone like the traitor Ibn Halim [official before Al-Qadhdhafi's era] or Idris al-Sununi [former King] or other officials who gave in to France [referring to France-Libya treaty on Libya-Chad borders]; nobody said no to them. And we are now paying the price for it.

Hundreds of people died because they surrendered to France. Whose future had they bargained with? Our future, of course. The same generation as you now; that is, the generation that was there at the time and did not say no is the one that later had to pay the price. All those people who died or who were martyred in Aozou (?Sara), or Chad, they all died as a result of treachery and because someone said yes to colonialism, said this Aozou is not for us but for our neighbor. You can take it in exchange for money, they said, in exchange for a post, like the premiership or money. Those who did not say anything or object to the deal later paid the price with their lives. They were indifferent and they thought there used to be a government, a monarchy, ministries [words indistinct].

If you were to ask those who died: Why did you not say no? they would have said to you it was not their business; there was a government and so on. Well the government vanished, but he had to face his fate and paid for it with his life. When you do not say no now to the Gulf of Sidra, Aozou, regionalism, Zionism, imperialism, reaction, or exploitation, you will pay the price for it later.

Who says no? And how many are there? You all have to say no otherwise it will lose its importance. 'Abd al-Nasir said no, no, but he was on his own and therefore his no has no significance today. It was only said by one person and we buried it with his death. Nobody says no today! Egypt is being desecrated and nobody says no! The Nile is being hampered and nobody says no! The High Dam is being hampered and nobody says no! 'Abd al-Nasir's lake, which can be seen on the map, and nobody says no! Egypt is being tranformed into a sphere of U.S. control and nobody says no! Egypt has given the Jews breathing room so that they can concentrate on the northern front and destroy it, and nobody says no! Even when Egypt has begun begging nobody says no!

The one who said no has now died and his no has been buried with him. If the Egyptian people had said no, 'Abd al-Nasir's death or thousands of other deaths like 'Abd al-Nasir's would not have mattered; no would always be there: no to colonialism, no to hegemony, no to subjugation, no to foreign invasion, no to the hampering of the Nile, no to recognizing the enemy, and no to America. Look at the people who depend upon others. The result would be the same even if 'Abd al-Nasir were still alive.

We and others who depended upon him are paying the price. He used to say no, but when he died nobody else would say no. The enemy came and nobody would say no. When they were made hungry they began to beg. Let those who did not say no beg now and pay the price. The Egyptian begs today and looks forward to U.S. wheat because he did not say no and used to depend upon 'Abd al-Nasir.

What we want is a new generation that will start here in Libya and then spread out to the rest of the Arab homeland and say no; a whole generation to say no. Otherwise, the whole operation will fail and so will the revolution and the mobilization. We are going to lose the confrontation if you will not say no, all of you, and will object. This is the generation of anger and rejection.

This is the generation of rejection and anger at everything that exists today, like borders, reaction, exploitation, occupation, and insult. The thing is, you should get angry because your own nation is insulting you. Listen, the American nation said the Arab nation is low and therefore let us insult it; the Arab nation should be under the shoes of the American nation. This should make you angry. Otherwise, when we say the generation of anger, what does this mean? You get angry because in your era there is a nation which encroaches upon your nation and says that this is a despicable nation, and that the Arabs cannot shoulder the responsibility for the Arab world.

Imagine! The Americans who occupy a whole continent still come and say we want to take the Arab homeland. One comes and says how can they take it; leave it; they take nothing. The bases which are now being built in Morocco, and about which the king of Morocco says: If the U.S. bases leave Spain, welcome to Morocco—what does this mean? The Americans are not taking the Arab homeland? When he says—we give them facilities—what does facilities mean? They mean that my land is at your disposal. Egypt now says we do not give bases to the United States, but facilities. What does facilities mean? It means making it easy for them to stay, pass through, and hold all the military operations. That is it. This is better. When we have a base in a country, every month we pay rent and it costs a lot; and it might be exposed to any danger. But facilities are better. Facilities mean that you sign with me that your country is at my disposal. The day I bring my army to it, you do not say no. Why pay rent and pay costs?

Understand it: The most dangerous thing is what they call facilities. Egypt now boasts; they think that the Arabs are stupid; they dupe this generation; they make a fool of it and regard it as a generation of chickens and sheep that does not understand. Someone like the Egyptian president comes along and says: Egypt does not grant bases to the United States, it provides facilities. You stupid man, facilities are more dangerous than bases, because bases constitute clear colonization that can be resisted, and then bases earn rents, and we can besiege them. But facilities mean that Egypt is at the disposal of the United States whenever it wishes. It is open when necessary.

Numayri used to declare this: We provide facilities to the United States. They all boast. Therefore, when you hear the word facilities, curse the father of the one who utters it as a traitor and agent; it means that he is duping us. He thinks that we are stupid, as though we do not understand, as though we do not know that facilities are more dangerous than bases. All the Arab traitors boast: We give facilities, we do not provide bases. They believe that this generation, those Arabs, are so stupid that Al-Sadat recognized the Israelis and made them believe his explanations, and that a few families are now ruling. And few crowned presidents—or rather uncrowned kings—are going around, and this gave them the impression that the Arabs are useless, are stupid, and lack the ability to reject. But despite what they said or did not say, we must create a generation of rejection, a generation of anger. [crowd chants] [students shout slogans] All right, indifference is the thing which would put us in the same situation as in 1911. Indifference is our number one enemy—when we feel indifferent and when we rely on somebody else.

We were not sure upon whom we were relying when the Arab homeland was given to the Turks. Did such a thing take place or not? Who among the Arab citizens signed and said—I give up my country to the Turks—and put it under their control for 600 years, a matter which has made us lose out as far as progress is concerned? Who did so? There was not one. But we were relying upon other people. Who were they? You should read history to find out who brought the Turks here to us. Well, they were those who used to talk on our behalf, upon whom we used to rely and to whom we left our affairs—they are the ones who brought the Turks to us. The price was 600 years of colonialism.

After this, we relied upon Turkey, the Ottoman state, the sultan and his armies. After Turkey, Italy, France, and Britain came here to us and took us bit by bit and slaughtered us. And for dozens of years we had to pay the price of relying upon Turkey, which used to control us. Everyone was indifferent when Italian bombs fell upon people: fisherman, shepherds, farmers, craftman and the rest. Those peoples' houses fell upon them because of the bombs of an aggressive country; still those people were not aware of what was taking place, because they were stupid and were relying upon somebody else. Look at how many catastrophies stupidity can cause, as well as reliance upon others.

I am not saying all this in order to give more information or [word indistinct]. I am saying this because the matter is a fateful one; it is related to the fate of your house, which might fall upon you head if you are stupid enough, or if you rely upon someone else [word indistinct]. Someone, maybe from the enemy's army, might enter your house and occupy it and you are not aware that there is an enemy, there are preparations and ambitions against you as well as all the enemy's threats against you.

Threats are being made against you day in and day out. Just listen to all those radios which are against us. You will hear that there is no aggression, no colonialism or rancor against you. They say: We are friendly with the Libyan people. Listen to Husni al-Barik [Mubarak] when he says there is no enmity between him and the Libyan people. The Libyan people are all right, go along with him. So who is the enmity against? It is against those who say no, and who are against treachery. Look this is obfuscation; it means that the Libyan people are stupid and therefore would accept treachery. Never: His problem is with the Libyan people. And if these Libyan people are conscious and have dignity they will refuse treachery and says to him: You are a traitor; you have nothing to do with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi so leave him alone; we, the Libyan people, say no to you Husni al-Barik; no to treachery, no to the Israelis; and no to the Americans—so that he might know that he has a problem with the people, when the people are conscious.

I want you to understand this [words indistinct] when the United States says there is no problem between it and the Libyan people, that its problem is with Al-Qadhdhafi. This means that the Libyan people should accept the United States, slavery, bow their heads and bow to the United States; that they should not consider the United States as an enemy and should not resist it and thus the one who is resisting the United States is Al-Qadhdhafi. This means that the one who is resisting the United States is Al-Qadhdhafi and not the Libyans; if they want to enter Libya, they can do so just by playing music.

This is a great insult to you, when they say in the United States every day that there is no problem between them and the Libyan people; their problem is with Al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people. What does all this mean? It means that you should accept U.S. colonialism, should accept insults, subjugation, arrogance, hegemony and U.S. arrogance, should accept the cowboys who would put their (?spears) in you and would not dare to say no. It means that he who says I would not allow the cowboy to ride over me, who says no to this arrogance and haughtiness; who says I put a limit to the United States and would not allow it to enter his country: the United States will have a problem with him. He will be representing the Libyan revolution, he will be a revolution, and he is Al-Qadhdhafi.

Listen to it. I want you to listen to the Voice of America, the BBC, Monte Carlo, all the radio stations, the radio stations of the Israelis and the hostile radios of Egypt in order to ascertain the truthfulness of what we are saying today. Listen, let the whole Libyan people listen.

The first thing that you will hear them say is that there is no problem between them and the Libyan people, and this is the biggest insult to the Libyan people. It means that the Libyan people accept treason. It means the Libyan people are not conscious; had they been conscious they would have rejected treason and colonialism. It means that there is only one person who is conscious, or a conscious revolutionary group in the revolution command, or there are conscious revolutionary committees, and they are the ones with whom there is a problem, whether this is with the Egyptian regime, the Israelis, or the Americans.

Even in Chad they say there is no problem between them and the Libyan people. This means that the Libyan people agree to concede their land—concede Aozou and give it as a base to the United States. It means that they are stupid—they say that the Libyan people are stupid, submissive and subdued, and consequently there is no problem with them. It is true that there is no problem with these stupid people. You can take everything from them and dupe them, make fun of them. If this is so, then who is the problem with? It is with those who are conscious; it is the conscious person who becomes your opponent—because he is conscious he knows that they are unjust, tyrants, and evil.

Their logic is very weak because they say this, and consequently subject themselves to being exposed by the truth. When we talk between us and say that these words insult the Libyan people, their logic is then unmasked, because their logic is weak, because they are traitors and aggressors, enemies of the peoples, enemies of freedom, food, the future and happiness. Thus, what is the logic that justifies depriving people of their freedom, their happiness, tranquility, land and dignity? What is this logic? There is no logic. Therefore, their logic is very weak. They have nothing with which to defend their policies. How can a kneeling Mubarak defend the recognition of Israel, what he called Israel? There is no longer a Palestine. Israel—which had occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—how can he defend this treason? When I am opposed to him and he wants to reply to me what does he say? He says he is unjust, he says: My problem is not Libya, my problem is not with the Libyan people, it is with so and so. If his problem is not with the Libyan people, this means that the Libyan people are in the stable [endorsing the Camp David accords], that they accept this treason, as though the Libyan people are stupid and do not know that he is involved in treason from head to toe.

All right, he has a problem with the Egyptian people. He has a problem with his own people; everyday there are demonstrations, prisons, arrests, assassinations, shootings, rebellion and rejections; everyday. He has a problem with his people who reject it and say no, leave the Libyan people alone. At least the Libyan people support their fraternal Egyptian people. And consequently, as he has a problem with the Egyptian people, he has a problem with the Libyan people, not with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi alone. But this is an attempt to dupe people and deceive them. See this logic exposed. He has a problem with his people everyday. Everyday there are demonstrations, arrests, tear gas bombs, and prisons. How is it that he has no problem with the Libyan people, who at least show their solidarity with the Egyptian people, with whom he does have a problem? He has no problem with the Palestinian people being massacred by the Israelis, whom he recognizes, and with whom he is hand in hand? All right.

Can they say we have no problem with any people? Before the whole world, they have a problem with the Palestinian people. Exactly the same as they have a problem with the Libyan people, they have a problem with the Palestinian people. They have a problem with the Libyan people, but because the Libyan people find support for themselves, they say: No, the problem is not with the people, it is with such-and-such person. But in fact, similar to their problem with the Egyptian people is their problem with the Palestinian people. Their problem with the Palestinian people is the same as their problem with the Libyan and the Egyptian people and with any other people. This is because the Libyan people's fate will be similar to the Palestinian people's if they do not say no and create problems for them and oppose them. The Egyptian people's fate will be similar to the Palestinian people's fate.

Perhaps because 'Abd al-Nasir was not a fool and was alert and understood, they were afriad of him and he constituted a danger to them. And he kept telling the Arab masses and calling on the Arab nation, and he wrote in "The Philosophy of the Revolution" and he said since 1948—when the Israelis entered Palestine and Al-Nasir found a little Palestinian girl the same age as his daughter killed, he imagined that his daughter would be killed—that if the Israelis remained in Palestine they would come to Egypt and kill an Egyptian girl the same age as this girl. And it happened. When the Israelis were established in Palestine, they began to fight Egypt and killed Egyptian girls, similar to the Palestinian girls whom 'Abd al-Nasir saw killed n 1948. Then he said: How can we escape this? He said: Defending Palestine is self-defense. Today they kill a Palestinian girl, tomorrow they will kill an Egyptian girl. Correct. When they had established themselves in Palestine, they went and killed an Egyptian girl, like they had killed a Palestinian girl.

When we reject Egypt's recognition of the enemy, we are in fact defending ourselves. Recognition means that the Israelis have reached our borders. In the days of Al-Nasir, the Israeli chief of staff could not have reached the Libyan borders. He has reached them now. He comes and visits and inspects the Libyan borders. Then he says: I have no problem with the Libyan people. This means that the Libyan people are stupid and applaud the Israeli chief of staff when he visits their borders. The Libyan people applaude the Egyptian [as heard] chief of staff, when kneeling Husni [Mubarak] brings him to the Libyan border in order to inspect them. We have no problem with him?

You must destroy this indifference. Most of what the basic people's congresses say is for you. When they talk of the great artificial river, when they talk of the iron and steel, when they talk of petroleum, the future of petroleum, fortifying the coast, building dams and reservoirs, these will remain for tens and hundreds of years. For whom are these things? They are for you. How can you not feel that?

You must feel your future, do you understand? If anyone obstructs this course, you must remove him. Even if it is your father, mother, or brother or anyone else. All the obstacles must be removed from your path. You must decide your own destiny by yourselves. Anyone who understands this becomes a revolutionary. Then when we ask who is not a member of a revolutionary committee, and someone raises his hand, and he is not a member of a revolutionary committee; this means that he did not understand. He is stupid. Write on his desk at school: does not understand, stupid, [words indistinct]. Write all these phrases, write them on a paper and stick it on him. Pay attention, because he does not understand.

USSR's Polyakov Meets Foreign Ministry Official

LD231553 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jan (JANA)—In Tripoli this morning, a member of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison met with Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on several international and regional issues of common interest, foremost of which is the uprising of the Arab people in occupied Palestine.

The talks also covered various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Delivers Gorbachev Message

LD240732 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jan (JANA)—Yesterday evening, the brother leader of the revolution received Vladimir Polyakov, member of the Consultative Council of the Soviet Foreign Ministry [title as received] and envoy of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Polyakov conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution a message from Gorbachev concerning international issues, at the forefront of which are the Arab people's uprising in occupied Palestine, the Afghan issue, Gorbachev's nuclear disarmament initiatives, internal developments in the Soviet Union with regard to the reconstruction being carried out by the Soviet leadership in the republics of the Soviet Union, and bilateral relations.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Foreign Leaders' Envoys

Given King Fahd Message

LD240847 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The brother leader has received Shaykh 'Ali Musallim, who handed him a letter from King Fahd.

Receives Moroccan King's Envoy

LD231428 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received an envoy of the Moroccan king.

Receives Senegalese Envoy

LD231604 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received an envoy of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

JANA Rejects UK Remarks on Support for Irish

LD221137 Tripoli JANA in English 1030 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The British minister, responsible for the war waged by Britain against Northern Ireland, made false accusations through misleading statements against the Great Jamahiriyah in an explict effort to conceal the heroic Irish resistance to British occupation.

The political editor on foreign affairs in JANA commented on the statements, saying:

"We are not surprised that such accusations and efforts to mislead, come from a government which once joined America in the barbaric unsuccessful attack on the innocent sons of the Great Jamahiriyah. Starting now on a campaign, the least that could be said of is devious and misleading, proves that British motives are colonialists targeted at progressive regimes opposed to its policy based on provocation and expansion. [sentence as receives]

The political editor referred that such a new campaign comes at a time when the acts of resistance of the Irish people are intensifying against all forms of British occupation.

The Great Jamahiriyah, he added, which supports the just cause and the struggle of the Irish people, knows that this fundamental stance is not a support to terrorism, and so the Great Jamahiriyah denies these accusations truly and totally, and cannot accept in anyway such accusations being attached to it.

Britain, he said, should concede to the freedom of the Irish people and should realise that the era of occupation and colonising nations was long gone.

Egypt Employs Repression After Consulate Attack

NC230735 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Press reports in Cairo revealed yesterday that thousands of leaflets have been distributed urging the overthrow of the Egyptian regime. The reports added that the leaflets were distributed among citizens all over Cairo, Alexandria, and some cities along the Suez Canal. They claimed that a certain organization that opposes the U.S.-Zionist presence is responsible for both the attack against the U.S. Consulate and a land survey office building in Alexandria and for another attack in southern Sinai.

Meanwhile, the Arabic-language, Paris-based magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL has reported that the Egyptian regime's repressive forces arrested a large number of young men and university students in Alexandria after the U.S. Consulate was attacked. The magazine also disclosed that an anonymous caller telephoned the Egyptian opposition newspaper AL-AHALI and claimed that the National Front for the Liberation of Egypt [Al-Jabhah al-Qawmiyah li Tahrir Misr] had resumed its armed struggle against the Zionist-U.S. presence on the territory of Arab Egypt.

Morocco

Foreign Minister Leaves for Tunis Meeting

LD231356 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat, Jan 23 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali left here Friday for Tunis to attend the extraordinary meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council due today here to look into the latest developments in the occupied Arab territories.

The meeting is to debate ways of consolidating the heroic upheaval of the Palestinian people in the territories and the intensification of efforts at the international level to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories as well as the securing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to self-rule and the creation of an independent state.

MAP Rebuts Reagan Message With Hassan Speech

LD221350 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat, Jan 22 (MAP)—The Moroccan Government handed to the national and international press the message addressed by President Ronald Reagan to King Hassan II following the call made by the sovereign last January 5 in Ifrane during the Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Committee meeting regarding the role of the United States of America in the defense of liberty and human dignity.

Following is the full text of Reagan's message:

"Your eloquent remarks to January 5 meeting of the Jerusalem Committee evoked the memory of historic U.S.-Moroccan cooperation in defense of liberty and human dignity. Those principles continue to guide our search for peace and stability.

Nowhere is the need for stability felt more acutely than in the Middle East. The tragic events we have witnessed in the West Bank and Gaza remind us all of the need for renewed urgency in the search for a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The U.S. has urged calm and restraint, calling on both sides to redouble efforts to avoid confrontation.

Realism is needed on all sides, and all sides must be willing to take practical, not just rhetorical, positions that make progress more likely.

The U.S. has made clear its belief that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people must be addressed in any agreement on the final status of the occupied territories, and that there should be Palestinian participation at every stage in the negotiating process.

The U.S. will continue to work for a solution, urging and encouraging activities which will enable voices of reason and moderation on all sides to prevail. This is vital if the essential work of peace is to go forward."

The sovereign had in fact said in this regard, "It is not my intention to speak of my feelings of pain at the sight of those children, those women and those elderly people falling victim of violence and finding no compassion from the super-powers, particularly from one of the most powerful, who had, not long ago, fought for the liberation of the world and struggled to liberate peoples from Nazism and fascism, this power, by the side of which Morocco had fought.

This is where lies the reason for the words I address to the United States of America which is an old-time friend of ours, a close and loyal friend for sure, but we say to it: No. In the same combat, thousands and hundreds of thousands of our soldiers and yours have died to free humanity.

This is why your ally of yesterday cannot help being surprised to see you scorn the principles for which your children and ours have died, all the more so as the Moroccan soldiers, when they particpated in the Second World War, did not do so as forces supplied by a colonized country nor as mercenaries. Never. Rather, they went to war in response to repeated calls of my august father, HM the late King Mohammed V, known as Sultan Sidi Mohammad Ben Youssef, who ordered that be [as received] read out in all the Kingdom's mosques, the royal message urging Moroccan citizens to fight by the side of the allies to defend freedom and human dignity.

When General de Gaulle decorated HM the late King Mohammed V with the Liberation Order and made him a Liberation Companion, Mohammed V was the only head of state—I do not say head of government—to receive this distinction. By this and through its sovereign, Morocco was rewarded in acknowledgement of its contribution to the combat.

In this quality, I could ask my American friends: For what cause did General Patton die? For what reason did our soldiers and yours fight and die in Castigliano, in Germany and in the Ardennes? They accepted the supreme sacrifice to defend dignity. It is this heritage and freely accepted sacrifices that allow me, as a Moroccan, to make this clear and frank speech, a speech which is addressed neither to the American Government nor to the American people, but stands up against injustice and unfairness.

Reagan Message Shows 'Evolution' of U.S. Stand

LD221414 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 22 Jan 88

["Reagan's Message to King Hassan II: Comment"—MAP headline]

[Text] Rabat, Jan 22 (MAP)—The positive results of the moves conducted for a long time by King Hassan II in favor of the Palestinian cause and Al-Quds al-Sharif [noble Jerusalem] become clearer and clearer to the satisfaction of the international community which is more concerned than ever to put an end to this infernal cycle of violence shaking the Middle East. The sovereign's clear stand in this respect was reiterated recently during the last meeting of the Al-Quds Committee when King Hassan II denounced injustice and unfairness calling on the United States, whom Morocco had struggled with for the triumph of human values, to play its role as a super-power.

The move of the sovereign whose stances are highly appreciated and respected throughout the world and particularly by the super-powers was well understood in the United States as President Reagan sent the sovereign a message shedding light on a number of points that were till now obscure.

Observers note that at the reading of this message, it became clear that the head of the White House responded to King Hassan as the sovereign of a friendly country which contributed, fully and in all sovereignty, to the defense of liberty and human dignity at the side of the allies during the Second World War. This is surely, the observers point out, a tribute to Morocco's historical role, an evidence of the consideration enjoyed by King Hassan II, and a homage to his international stature as the king of Morocco and as the chairman of the Al-Quds Committee as well.

The same observers also note that Reagan's message reveals a clear evolution of the U.S. stand regarding the Middle East issue.

It is in fact the first time that the United States stresses the necessity of the Palestinian participation at every stage in the negotiating process and the need to preserve their rights. "The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people must be addressed in any agreement on the final status of the occupied territories", Reagan's message states.

The very notion of occupied territories (in plural) is in itself significant as it embodies the West Bank and Gaza strip as well as the other Arab territories under Israeli dominion.

Observers underlined another element in the message: the identification of the protagonists, who without being named, were clearly designated. The United States, the message says, calls "on both sides to redouble efforts..." It is quite clear here, in light of the ongoing events in the territories occupied by Israel, that it is a question of Israel on the one hand and the Palestinian people on the other, i.e. those who have been confronting each other for several weeks in Gaza and the West Bank.

The United States finally declares determination to encourage all actions likely to lead to a settlement in the region. This means that we are moving towards the organization of an international conference on the Middle East, a conference requested from all sides and that must be attended, as King Hassan II stressed on many occasions, by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the two super powers.

EC Parliament 'Deplores' Negotiation Failure

LD221439 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Strasbourg, Jan 22. (MAP)—The European Parliament Thursday deplored the failure of Moroccan-EEC fisheries negotiations and the consequent withdrawal of the European Community's fleet from Moroccan territorial waters.

In a resolutions adopted unanimously in Strasbourg, the European parliament called on the European Commission to assume its responsibilities in this regard and to urgently take the necessary measures, in close consultation with member states' governments, so that concerned workers, industries and services not suffer from the breaking off of negotiations.

Last December 31, the European Community failing to make an offer Morocco considered fair, the Kingdom had refused to further prorogate the provisional fisheries agreement with the community expiring at the end of last year and asked all community trawlers operating in the Moroccan waters to withdraw.

The resolution also invited the commission to immediately report to the European parliament on the details of the negotiations. The alleged causes of the change in the attitude of the Moroccan delegation, the participation of officials of the EEC fisheries' policies as well as on prospects of a prompt resumption of negotiations with a view of concluding an agreement.

Further on Visit by USSR Peace Delegation

Delegation Meets Cherkaoui

LD221457 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat, Jan 22 (MAP)—The visiting delegation from the Soviet Committee for Peace conferred here Thursday with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui on the fruitful contacts between the committee and the Moroccan Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Between Peoples.

The two parties also tackled the regular meetings between Soviet and Moroccan officials and the two countries' common action at the international level in favor of peace, cooperation and entente among the world's peoples.

Cherkaoui placed emphasis on the rightfulness of the Moroccan cause regarding the retrieval of its Sahara and its sincere will to endeavor for peace and cooperation with its neighbors.

Head of the Soviet delegation Maksud I. Ibragimbekov, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaidjan republic, termed "very interesting" the two committees talks and affirmed "there are no diverging points between the two countries" and nothing is "likely to change our feelings in this respect".

On the other hand, the delegation members Thursday held a press conference at the office of the Soviet news agency "NOVOSTI" in Rabat. Maksud Ibragimbekov surveyed the changes that are taking place in the Soviet Union and their impact on culture and art which are witnessing a growing overture.

On his part member of the Presidency of the Soviet Committee for African-Asian Solidarity and orientalist Noel Usmanov [name as received] stressed the importance of the cultural and literary heritage of the Arab nation adding that Soviet men of letters are very interested by artistic creativity in Morocco and the Arab world. Several short stories and works have been translated lately from Arabic into Russian, he went on.

Holds Press Conference

LD241100 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Rabat, 23 January, MAP—The delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace which is currently visiting Morocco has held a press conference at the NOVOSTI headquarters in Rabat.

Maksud I. Ibragimbekov, the head of the delegation and a prominent man of letters in the Soviet Union, started the conference with a review of the changes occurring in the Soviet Union and their repercussions on the cultural and artistic issues which have begun to see a growing openness.

Noel Usmanov [name as received], an orientalist and a member of the Presidium of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, talked about the importance of the intellectual and literary Arab heritage and the interest of the Soviet men of letters in Moroccan and Arab creative works. [passage omitted]

Maksud I. Ibragimbekov then referred to the escalation of causes of tension in several regions of the world, indicating that the visit to Morocco of the delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace falls within the framework of an exchange of viewpoints, a policy which his country is eager to follow with friendly peoples in order to establish world peace, especially now that the possession of destructive weapons is no longer restricted to the superpowers but includes several other states. In this respect, he stressed that the possession of nuclear weapons by the Pretoria regime and the Zionist entity endangered world peace.

The head of the Soviet delegation also confirmed his country's readiness to withdraw its troops from Afghan territory "as soon as the conditions guaranteeing peace and stability in that country are met." [passage omitted]

Meets With Osman, PPS, USFP

LD231741 Rabat MAP in English 1207 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat, Jan 23 (MAP)—Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Ahmad Osman Thursday afternoon received here the visiting delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace headed Maksud I. Imbragimbekov chairman of the Azerbaijan Committee for Peace and deputy of this republic's Supreme Soviet.

In an address on this occasion, Osman stressed the attachment of Moroccans to universal peace and the importance given by Moroccan deputies to seeking peaceful means to settle regional problems such as the Palestinian cause and the South African people's struggle against the Apartheid regime.

The Soviet delegation also conferred Friday in Casablanca with leaders of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS-Communist) on the territorial integrity of Morocco and on relations between Morocco and European and American countries.

On Thursday, the delegation had met members of the Socialist Union for Popular Forces (USFP) and held with them talks on questions on peace in the world.

The visit of the Soviet delegation is made following an invitation of the Moroccan Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Among Peoples.

Sudan

Air Force Reports Plane Crash at Juba Airport

JN241050 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 24 SUNA—An Air Force pilot was killed in a crash accident when his aircraft was landing at Juba Airport yesterday. According to a statement issued by the Armed Forces General Command last night the pilot, Lt. Col. "PSC" [as received] was killed when his plane crashed down at Juba Airport as a result of a technical failure.

Plane Gift From Libya

NC241427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (MENA)—A Sudanese Air Force MIG-23 aircraft crashed while landing at Juba Airport yesterday and the pilot, Captain Hasan 'Abdallah 'Uthman, was martyred as a result.

An official statement announced that the accident was due to a technical malfunction. It should be recalled that this is the second accident involving this type of aircraft which Sudan received from Libya as a gift. Libya originally gave Sudan four MIG-23's, and then sent a fifth to replace the one which crashed early last month.

Investigation Continues on Killing of Iraqi

Minister Denies Disagreement

JN241103 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 24 SUNA—Culture and Inforamtion Minister al-Tawm Muhammad Al-Tawm has denied any disagreeemnt among the coalition government in the aftermath of the killing here last week of the Iraqi opposition leader Mahdi al-Hakim. Al-Tawm who is the official government spokesman told reporters yesterday that the alliance between the two parties is progreesing satisfactorily and with full coordination on all issues. He said allegations on disagreement between the Al-Ummah and DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] on the issue were untrue.

Two Officals 'Suspended'

JN241225 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA)—The latest developments in connection with the Hilton Hotel incident, which resulted in the assassination of the Iraqi Shi'ite leader Mahdi al-Hakim, have indicated that Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah, prior to his departure for Tunis yesterday to attend the Arab foreign minsiters meeting, issued a decision giving two senior diplomats indefinite leave so as to pave the way for interrogating them in this case.

The two diplomats are Mirghani Sulayman, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and the head of Consular Administration at the ministry. Initial investigations have stated that this administration is the agency which issued the entry visas for Al-Hakim and his nephew, who accompanied his uncle's body to Tehran.

The decision to suspend the two diplomats from discharging their duties was issued following a meeting by the Council of Ministers. During the meeting, some of the Al-Ummah Party ministers in the coalition government demanded that the minister [not further identified] resign and be held responsible for the assassination.

The independent newspaper AL-SIYASAH said that the two Foreign Ministry diplomats denounced the suspension decision and said that they, as diplomats, will not allow anyone to make them scapegoats.

In another development, it is expected that the Council of Ministers will meet under Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at noon today to study the report submitted by the ministerial committee entrusted with studying the details and circumstances related to the assassination.

The Council had earlier reviewed the incident and studied the progress of the investigation. The AL-AYYAM newspaper said that the two coalition parties are trying to delineate the points of disagreement between them and prevent any misunderstanding in order to prevent anything that might lead to a dissolution of the ruling coalition government which comprises the Al-Ummah Party and the DUP. The newspaper added that DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Dr 'Amr al-Dayim, second in command in the Al-Ummah Party, have agreed to restrict investigations to the technical aspects of the incident alone and exclude the political aspects.

The DUP held a meeting on the level of higher institutions last night to discuss the developments which news reports indicate could lead to a sharp political crisis that might bring down the existing coalition government.

The independent newspaper AL-ITTIHAD said that Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, whose resignation is demanded by the other party to the coalition government [the Al-Ummah Party], has stressed to the newspaper that in accordance with a recommendation made by the security apparatus, he strongly opposed the decision issued by the prosecutor general which allowed the deceased person's nephew to leave Khartoum for Tehran.

The newspaper said that this stand by the interior minister, the third in command in the DUP leadership, resulted in his being excluded from the ministerial committee set up to investigate the conditions and circumstances of the incident, which was denounced by all Sudanese political forces. The paper emphasized that the departure of the deceased's nephew, the only witness to the incident, has undermined the investigation process, which might have to be stopped and may result in filing a case against an unidentified person because of insufficient evidence.

'Freeze' on Case Denied

JN251117 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1013 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jan (SUNA)—A senior security official, Major General ‘Abdallah ‘Abd Kahin, director of the Central Criminal Investigations Office, affirmed to the independent daily AL-ITTIHAD that the security authorities do not intend to freeze the investigation into the killing in Khartoum last week of Iraqi Shi‘ite Mahdi al-Hakim.

The security official refused to deny or confirm whether or not the security organs have made any progress in the continuing investigation to uncover the culprits.

Daily Confirms Fall of Kapoeta to Rebels

JN251009 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 25 (SUNA)—The daily independent AL-SUDANI, in its issue of Sunday confirmed that Kapoeta town, southern east of Equatorian Region was captured by rebels of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLA)

The paper said the capturing of the town came due to shortage of ammunition and military equipment supplies.

State Council Extends State of Emergency

JN250925 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 25 (SUNA)—The Sudanese Council of State has decided the extension of the state of emergency which was declared last year. The Constituent Assembly will today Monday discuss the decree.

It is to be recalled that the various political parties have strongly rejected the decree and that the second partner in the coalition government the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has announced its rejection to the amendment adopted by Al-Ummah Party in the decree particularly issues related to freedom and press.

State Council Member Meets Nigeria's Obasango

JN241358 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 24 (SUNA)—Member of the Supreme Council Dr. Pacifico Lado Lolik, met here yesterday with the ex-presient of Nigeria Gen Obasango who handed him a report on the outcomes of Obasango contacts with Sudan People's Garang to maintain peace in southern Sudan. The report consists of recommendations of Obasango initiative for solving the southern Sudan problem. Dr Lolik said, following the meeting that he briefed Obasango on the steps taken by the government during the past period for solving the problem peacefully. The ex-Nigerian president came here yesterday from Nairobi where he held a meeting with President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and briefed him on his contacts with the Sudanese Government and the SPLM [Sudan's People's Liberation Movement]. The framework of his. [sentence as received] Obasango who met also with Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will leave later on for Ethiopia to meet with President Mengistu Haile Meriam and John Garang regarding the issue.

SPLA on National Constitutional Conference

EA221731 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Commentary by Captain Atem Yaak Atem, head of the SPLM-SPLA Information Unit]

[Text] In a statement carried by the AL-AYYAM Arabic daily of 4 January, the Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was quoted as saying that there was need for the holding of the national constitutional conference, to discuss the share and distribution of the nation's wealth, the system of rule, the relationship between the state and religion, and the identity of the Sudan.

As if to put more weight to the words of the prime minister, retired General Burmah Nasir, state minister for what Khartoum calls defense and a well-known hawk, was reported by AL-MAYDAN of 4 January, a paper which is the mouthpiece of the Sudan Communist Party, that both the government and the SPLM must sit round a negotiating table because, according to the general, both agree that the views of the two warring parties concur on some of the root causes of the conflict; namely, the distribution of wealth, system of rule, share of state power, etc.

The prime minister has been apparently talking favorably about the issues he had always been consistently rejecting. In a recent interview he held in the Middle East, Mr al-Mahdi stated that grievances of the people from southern Sudan were genuine and should not be solved by military means.

Of course, he did not care to talk about the plight of the rest of the Sudan's backward areas, which include the poor in Khartoum itself.

Some of the independent observers may be tempted to conclude that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi must have made a U-turn in his attitude towards the movement, but there have been serious contradictions in the whole scenario from the time al-Mahdi started making statements about holding the constitutional conference. He has been consistently talking about the enactment of alternative shari'a Islamic laws, which in fact constitute another facade of the September laws of 1983.

In the same statement reported by AL-MAYDAN, Gen Burmah Nasir said that the government was going to strengthen its Armed Forces implicitly to fight the SPLA. In AL-ITTIHAD of 4 January, Khartoum's Arabic newspaper, the commander of the Eastern Division, Major General Sayn al-Abidin Basmallah, stated that the SPLA would be completely wiped out during the first quarter of the current year.

In his recent statement to Khartoum's constituent assembly, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi claimed that his government and the SPLA had reached an agreement on a cease-fire. This is his own story. The SPLM-SPLA have told the whole world that no such agreement had existed.

These conflicting statements from Khartoum expose the government's real intentions. The statements by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Gen Burmah Nasir are mere political maneuvers intended to mislead the public by painting the SPLA as a warmonger.

If the prime minister and his state minister of what Khartoum chooses to call defense are for genuine peace, then why strengthen the government's Armed Forces to fight the SPLA? Gen Zayn al-Abidin Qasmallah's story reveals all that there should be a military solution before the holding of the constitutional conference.

In this apparent confusion from Khartoum, the answer is that the government cannot and should not be taken seriously as if it is all-out for peace. It has never budged an inch from its previous militarist stand. If there is any change at all, then it is simply a change in political tactics based on deceit, which is very transparent.

National Council To Be Set Up For Talks

JN241243 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 24 (SUNA)—All the political parties with the exception of the Islamic National Front have agreed to form a National Council so as to contact the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and to prepare for the convening of the constitutional conference which is scheduled to be held this year.

Most of the parties had signed the Sudan charter while some parties refused such as the Islamic National Front, Communist Party, Ba'th Party and the Islamic Socialist Party.

The member of the State Supreme Council and president of the Charter Committee Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik said that the Council will be formed of two members from each party.

The Islamic National Front refused to be represented in the National Council on the ground that it did not participate in the preparation of the Sudan charter. The charter dealt with certain national issues such as the language, religion, wealth and laws.

Aide Discusses Military, Security Situation

PM221619 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 88 p 3

[Interview with State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hisham] After the Kurmuk events you declared a popular mobilization. What is the outcome of the efforts made in this connection?

[Al-Mirghani] Actually, after my visit to Al-Damazin and the areas around Kurmuk and Qaysan—which was 5 days after the outlaws attacked and occupied Kurmuk—I sat down with our brothers, the combat troops. I felt then that there was a need for serious efforts to raise morale—the morale of the troops was high, as a matter of fact—and to unite the domestic front and the various sectors of the population in support and in aid of the Armed Forces. When I returned, I called for a general mobilization. The response of all the parties, establishments, and unions of all political trends was great and we began to make donations for the Armed Forces. Schoolchildren even donated some of their pocket money, and all that was handed over to the commander in chief. That action showed the real mettle of the Sudanese people in times of difficulty. They stood united and strong.

The call was successful, thank God, and we in the State Council decided to continue with the general mobilization. The prime minister, the brothers in the National Islamic Front of the opposition, all the parliamentary

Tunisia

'Full' Diplomatic Relations Resumed With Egypt

*LD240051 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 23 Jan 88*

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued the following statement:

On the basis of the ties of destiny that have linked the Tunisian Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt and their fraternal peoples throughout history, in light of their growing relations, and out of their eagerness to strengthen and [word indistinct] them, and in the interests of the two countries and the Arab nation, the governments of the two countries have agreed to resume full diplomatic relations as of yesterday, Saturday, 4 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1408 AH, corresponding to 23 January 1988 AD.

Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri made the following statement on the matter to a representative of Tunisian radio and television:

[Begin Mestiri recording] The resumption of relations between Tunisia and the Arab Republic of Egypt is undoubtedly a historic event—historic in terms of the ties between the two countries, historic for the Arab world, and historic for the African Continent.

After the Amman summit's welcome, the meaning of the Baghdad decision breaking relations with Egypt and the resumption of diplomatic ties with Egypt by many Arab countries, Tunisia considered this to be a new reality [word indistinct] which dictated a close study of the situation. This was the subject of thorough consultations with our neighbors and others, and was the topic of priority talks with our Egyptian brothers. This continued until we concluded a joint statement. Except for Iraq, no other country that resumed relations has done so. Iraq was an exceptional case; it severed relations with Egypt [words indistinct].

This is a [word indistinct] that bears no similarity to others, and brings glad tidings, as relations between Tunisia and Egypt are pan-Arab [words indistinct], popular, cultural, and trade ties in every field, as well as joint action on the Arab and African scene, and, God willing, joint action for the benefit of the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause.

Once the Palestinian flag was raised again in Cairo, we had great hopes of interacting with our brothers in Egypt and cooperating for the sake of Palestine. Perhaps at this special juncture in the life of the Palestinian people, in the days of this blessed uprising, this will be an action with [word indistinct]. In any case, that is what we are hoping for. [end recording]

Prime Minister's Tour Delays Al-Qadhdhafi Visit

*PM221645 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
23 Jan 88 p 4*

[Unattributed report: "Al-Qadhdhafi's Visit Postponed, Not Canceled"]

[Text] Informed Tunisian sources have confirmed to AL-TADAMUN that the reason for the postponement of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia was not political, and did not reflect any new disputes between the two countries. Rather, it was the result of Libya's desire to have Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche in Tunisia during the trip, due to the important role he played in achieving the reconciliation while minister for social affairs. Baccouche had been on a visit to France, which was followed after his return to Tunisia by a tour of several Gulf states. The sources added that the Libyan leader's visit will take place after Baccouche returns to Tunisia. Moreover, the sources note that the Tunisian prime minister's tour of several Gulf capitals is designed to brief officials there on the goals of the new government in Tunisia. In addition, Baccouche will discuss the possibilities for cooperation in light of the Tunisian leadership's desire to get its relations with the Arabs moving, and to tie Tunisia to its pan-Arab environment. As part of the same analysis, the sources explained that Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's first trip abroad as president will be to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Presidential Statement Supports Palestinians

*LD221431 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has issued the following statement:

His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Tunisian Republic, has followed with great interest and concern the bloody, oppressive measures and the high-handed actions of the Israeli army of occupation against defenseless Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

His excellency the president hails the gallant uprising of the Palestinian people, who have set an example of steadfastness and struggle and have offered fresh columns of blessed martyrs. At the same time, the president expresses Tunisia's firm and effective solidarity and its position alongside the Palestinian brothers in the occupied areas.

He strongly condemns the acts of murder committed against the Palestinian people by the Israeli army of occupation. That army has made these people destitute through its inhuman practices, which together constitute a flagrant violation of international agreements and charters, reflect a disregard of ethical values, and are a breach of the most fundamental human rights.

While highlighting its recent appeal to the international public, Tunisia again calls on the international community to take firm and urgent measures to end the Palestinian people's suffering. An international peace conference must be convened to establish a point at which the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights to freedom, dignity, and an independent state on their own soil are restored.

The turning point marked by the methods of resistance and struggle highlights the reinvigorated militant energies of the Palestinian people and their strong attachment to their inalienable and historic rights, which the usurpers have been trying to obliterate through domination and suppression.

Today, as never before, it is most imperative for consciences to be aroused and efforts made to take practical and effective measures that can directly influence the course of events, and oppose Israel's stubbornness and refusal to obey international law and UN resolutions.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Calls for Talks With Morocco

LD231417 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The Polisario Front, the sole and legitimate representative of the Saharan people, expresses full readiness to enter into direct negotiations with Morocco in accordance with the wishes of the United Nations and the OAU. Mohamed Lamine Ould Salek, secretary general of the Saharan Presidential Office, has reiterated the Polisario Front's readiness to positively work with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and the current OAU Chairman Kenneth Kuanda in order to implement the peace plan in the Western Sahara.

Ould Salek pointed out that the UN-OAU Technical Commission has presented its report to the UN secretary general and to the current OAU chairman, and has stressed the need for direct negotiations between the Polisario Front and Morocco in order to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Western Sahara. The Saharan official pointed out that a peaceful end to the current conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front would speed up the unionist efforts for the great Arab Maghreb. Ould Salek asserted the need for the withdrawal of Moroccan forces and administration in order to enable the Saharan people to freely exercise their right to self-determination.

He pointed out the international condemnation of the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara and recalled the resolutions issued by the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement, all of which have called for the withdrawal of Moroccan forces from the Western Saharan and stressed the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence.

Intra-Gulf

Iraq Reportedly Hits Iranian Supertanker

NC240830 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, Jan 24 (AFP)—Iraqi warplanes hit an Iranian supertanker, the "Shirko," early Saturday, south of the main Iranian oil terminal on Khark Island in the northeast Gulf, regional shipping sources said on Sunday.

A military spokesman in Baghdad announced on Saturday that Iraqi planes had hit a "large naval target," the usual term for a supertanker, off the Iranian coast.

The shipping sources were unable to immediately confirm the raid, but indicated that they later received confirmation from a ship in the north of the Gulf. Iranian ships or those chartered by Iran do not usually send out distress signals when hit.

The shipping sources had no word on how much damage the "Shirko" had sustained. The supertanker had been used recently for the shuttle between Khark and Iranian terminals in the southern Gulf.

It was the first Iraqi attack to be confirmed since the raid on the Cypriot tanker "United Venture" on January 11, in which six seamen died and two were reported missing.

At least 13 tankers have been attacked in the Gulf this year, many of them by Iranian speedboats.

Iranian Speedboats Attack Danish Tanker

NC230840 Paris AFP in English 0820 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Manama, Jan 23 (AFP)—A Danish tanker, the "Porm Rotna," was attacked and badly damaged on Friday by Iranian speedboats in the southern Gulf, regional shipping sources said here Saturday.

The 33,650-ton tanker, whose crew was unharmed, was fired upon at 1610 GMT as it was off the United Arab Emirates port of Dubayy and sustained "major damage", the sources said. The unladen tanker was on its way to the Saudi Arabian port of Al-Jubayl.

It was the third attack by Iranian vessels on commercial shipping in the Gulf in the past 24 hours. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Officials Go To Iran To 'Reclaim' Embassy

JN241643 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Jan 88 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Two Kuwait Foreign Ministry officials have gone to Iran to reclaim possession of the Kuwaiti Embassy premises in Tehran from Iran Government, Ahmad A. al-Ayyub, chief of Protocol Department, said responding to a query by the ARAB TIMES.

Referring to the moves to reopen the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran, Al-Ayyub said "the Foreign Ministry officials will check the documents and contents of the embassy" before its reopening. The Kuwaiti officials went to Tehran on Thursday.

Provocations [subhead]

Iranian demonstrators ransacked the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran on Aug 1, 1987, soon after the riots in the holy city of Mecca during the last Hajj season. The Saudi Embassy was also ransacked. More than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed and hundreds others injured in violence provoked by Iranian pilgrims.

Relations between Kuwait and Iran reached a low ebb after the ransacking of Kuwaiti Embassy and was followed by a series of provocations by Tehran regime.

Iran fired a long-range missile into Kuwait on Sept 4 last year which hit the southern coast but caused no casualties. Kuwait strongly protested the aggression and complained to the UN Security Council.

Kuwait expelled five Iranian diplomats serving at the Iranian Embassy here in the second week of September last year in retaliation to the Iranian provactive acts.

Gesture [subhead]

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia recently began to soften their attitudes towards the Iranian Government in the hope that Tehran leaders would reciprocate the gestures.

Arab diplomatic sources said the two members of the Gulf Cooperation Council had abandoned their tough stand against the Tehran rulers during the 8th summit of the GCC leaders held in Riyadh in December. They joined other GCC member states in calling on Iran to respond to the UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war now in its eighth year.

They agreed to keep the dialogue open with Tehran instead of insisting on a break of relations between the GCC and Iran.

Iran last week agreed to hold talks with the GCC on the war.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Arab League Talks
LD231043 Kuwait KUNA in English 0833 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 23 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir left here for Tunisia Saturday heading Kuwait's delegation to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to look into the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters upon departure that the meeting will discuss a Palestinian comprehensive work paper submitted by the PLO.

He said that the issue of sending Arab delegations to member states of the Security Council depends on what the ministers decide in the meeting, which is among the matters included in the Palestinian paper.

On the call by U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar to convene an international peace conference [words indistinct] to review contacts the committee held with international parties on implementing U.N. resolution 598 calling for an immediate halt to the war.

Shaykh Sabah is accompanied by a delegation comprising Director of the Financial and Administrative Department Ambassador Mijren al-Hamad [name as received] and other ministry officials.

He was seen off by Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Sau'd al-'Usaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahid and other ranking officials.

Saudi Arabia

Syria's Al-Shar' Conveys Message, Departs
LD231214 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, may God keep him, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a verbal message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. It was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', when he was received by King Fahd at the Al-Yamamah Palace yesterday evening. The audience was attended by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and by Syrian Ambassador to the Kingdom Muhammad al-Tal.

The Syrian foreign minister left Riyadh last night. He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid al-Alamdar; by the Syrian ambassador; and by a royal protocol representative and other officials.

Foreign Minister To Hold Talks in USSR
LD251343 Kuwait KUNA in English 1251 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Moscow, Jan 25 (KUNA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud will be visiting the Soviet Union, possibly tomorrow, reliable diplomatic sources here said Monday.

The sources, however, declined to give any details on Prince Al Sa'ud's visit or the subjects he will discuss with Soviet leaders, expected to deal with the Arab Gulf situation and the Arab-Israeli conflict in the light of the present heroic uprising in the occupied Arab lands.

Outcome of the recent Gulf Cooperation Council summit, held in Riyadh last month, and the just ended Arab foreign ministers emergency conference in Tunis, will feature on the upcoming Saudi-Soviet talks, the diplomatic sources concluded.

Yemen Arab Republic

PLO's 'Arafat Makes Statement, Departs
JN221345 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, left Sanaa today at the end of a 3-day visit to our country.

During the visit he briefed Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, on the latest developments in the popular uprising by Palestinian citizens against the Zionist occupation forces in the occupied Arab territory.

In a statement to SABA', Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said he discussed with the brother leader the measures and steps adopted by the PLO, including the formation of committees in towns, refugee camps, and schools, to lead and continue the uprising until the Zionist occupation ends.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman added: I briefed the brother president on the Arab and international moves, particularly at the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said the Palestinian and Yemeni delegations that will take part in the Arab foreign ministers meeting will make joint efforts to support the uprising with all that it needs on various media, political, and material levels.

In conclusion, Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his appreciation for our country's firm and sincere stands in support of the Palestinian mujahidin on all levels. He was seen off by officials and members of the Palestinian revolution in Sanaa.

'Aziz on Iran's Position on Resolution 598

JN231506 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has called for imposing sanctions on the Iranian regime without delay and rejecting its maneuvers and lies.

In an interview with INA today, he said these Iranian maneuvers and lies have continued since the UN Security Council issued Resolution 598 approximately 7 months ago.

Asked about the nature of current deliberations in the Security Council regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and the postponement of sanctions against the Iranian regime which rejects the resolution, Tariq 'Aziz said there is an international consensus that Iran is the only side rejecting the international resolution.

He added Iran rejected the resolution as soon as it was issued, adopted a policy of procrastination, played with words to mislead the Security Council and the international community, and continued its aggressive policy against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries.

He pointed out Iran is preparing for a new agression against Iraq as part of its rejection of peace. He added that some sides in the Security Council, as well as other circles, do not want to admit Iran is the only side not abiding by Security Council Resolution 598 and are dealing with the Iranian maneuvers.

'Aziz affirmed that these countries and sides have not adopted this position because they believe Iran will change its policy, but because of their interests, that Iraq views such a position as negative because Security Council Resolution 598 is binding, and that the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations and the Security Council are linked to the implementation of this resolution.

He said any delay in imposing sanctions against the Iranian aggressor will weaken the Security Council and the United Nations and will contribute to the continuation of instability in the Arabian Gulf region and the world.

'Aziz called on the international community to pressure these countries and cirlces to abandon their harmful behavior not only against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries, but also against security and stability in the world and the credibility of the United Nations.

Asked about the Iranian regime's recent message to the UN secretary general, 'Aziz said there is nothing new in it other than the policy of maneuvers and playing with words. He also said that by playing with words, the Iranian regime believes it can continue to mislead people as it did in the past.

'Aziz urged the UN Secretariat and the Security Council to reject this policy to preserve the Security Council's prestige and the United Nation's credibility. He added this Iranian behavior is an attempt to make a fool of the UN Secretariat, the Security Council, and the international community.

Leaves for Tunis

JN231210 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Tunis today to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council which will begin there later today to discuss the situation in the occupied territory.

In a predeparture statement, Tariq 'Aziz said he has received instructions from President Saddam Husayn to support the PLO's proposals to reinforce the uprising and to call for the Palestinian people's rights.

He added that Iraq's stand on this issue was defined during the visit to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by President Saddam Husayn on 16 January. During this visit, his excellency called for a continuous and intensive Arab action to support the occupied territory uprising, Tariq 'Aziz said. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 2,995

JN221800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,995 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of the dear homeland and our great people's achievements, Iraq's brave men have continued their march on the road to final victory over our vile enemies and inflicted new losses on them. The following is a roundup of our forces' combat activities for last night and today:

1. As we stated in the military spokesman's statement last night, our naval force spotted three enemy gunboats and a raft trying to approach the loading platform at Al-'Amiq Port. The brave helicopter knights raided the enemy boats and raft, destroyed them, and sunk them with their scoundrels. Our knights then returned safely to base in God's care. Blessed be the brave men and praise be to God for His victory.

2. Pursuant to our firm and legitimate right to sever the oil supplies of the regime of the ignorant and backward Tehran rulers and to deprive them of their resources for their treacherous designs of aggression, our brave Air Force flew a successful raid against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0500 [0200 GMT] today. After scoring an accurate and effective hit against the maritime target, our valiant hawks returned safely with their aircraft to base under God's protection.

3. One of our valiant formations in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt effective artillery and mortar blows to enemy units. Our men killed 20 Khomeyniites and wounded several others. Another unit in the same sector spotted an enemy group including 15 scoundrels. Our units engaged them with weapons, killed eight of them, and forced the rest to flee.

4. An enemy patrol was engaged, three of its personnel were killed, and a shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Five scoundrels were killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. An enemy boat was destroyed and its personnel killed and two infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. An enemy boat, a shovel, an infantry position were destroyed and a 60-mm mortar, three rifles, and a quantity of ammunition abandoned by the enemy were found in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 January 1988

General, Others Killed

JN231145 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—A military spokesman has announced the death of martyr Staff Major General 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibrahim al-Hadithi and the rest of the martyrs—the V Army Corps staff officers, the two pilots, and a number of soldiers. In a statement to INA this afternoon, the military spokesman said their crashed aircraft was found this morning in an area near the village of (Shiwan).

Earlier today, the military spokesman said an Iraqi helicotper had crashed near the village of (Shiwan) as a result of technical failure at 1720 [1420 GMT] yesterday.

The spokesman lauded the feats of the martyr and those who were with him. The spokesman said: The martyr, may God have mercy upon him, and those who were with him were faithful soldiers in defending the nation's sanctities, the homeland's territory, and the people's dignity. They are the victims of the sacred duty.

Spokesman Refutes Iranian 'Lie'

JN231247 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1217 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman today said that linking the crash of the V Army Corps commander's helicopter to the failing offensive in the I Army Corps areas is the biggest lie fabricated by the Tehran rulers, an empty allegation, and merely cheap charlatanism.

The spokesman added that the Mawat area, in which the battle was waged last week, is hundreds of kilometers from the area where the helicopter of the V Army Corps commander and his escorts crashed.

The V Army Corps commander and his companions were returning from a routine visit to the administrative area in Kuysanjaq when weather conditions worsened and a technical failure occurred in the aircraft. As a result of this, the helicopter crashed and all passengers were martyred.

The Iraqi spokesman affirmed that the area in which the fighting was waged is in the I Army Corps sector, not the V Army Corps sector. No Khomeyni scoundrel can reach the area in which the aircraft crashed.

The spokesman added that the recent battle in Mawat was not an honor for the Tehran rulers, who lost thousands of soldiers without achieving any of their objectives. The spokesman called for studying Iraq's map thoroughly to get the solid evidence about the cheap lie fabricated by the Tehran ruler on the subject.

He said the Tehran rulers continue their charlatanism and the subject needs no evidence. It is a merely empty allegation to link the fall of the aircraft to the failing offensive in the I Army Corps sector—in an area hundreds of kilometers from where the helicopter crashed.

Communique No 2,996 on Crash

JN231428 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1338 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,996 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 January]

[Text] Further to the military spokesman's statement issued this morning on the crash of a helicopter carrying the commander of the V Army Corps and a number of his staff officers as they were carrying out their duty, the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command mourns with great sorrow before the noble Iraqi people and their brave Armed Forces the death of brave fighter Major General 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibrahim al-Hadithi, commander of the V Army Corps.

The commander was martyred yesterday, Friday, 22 January 1988, along with a number of the brave staff officers of the V Army Corps, the two pilots of the aircraft, and other ranks while the late martyr and his comrades were carrying out their sacred duty of inspecting the corps units.

While returning, their helicopter fell near the township of (Shiwan) in the Al-Ta'mim Governorate at 1720 [1420 GMT]. At dawn today, the wreckage of the plane and the bodies of the righteous martyrs were found.

An accurate technical investigation and confirmed available information have proven that the plane crashed as a result of extremely bad weather.

Martyr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hadithi, commander of the V Army Corps, along with other staff officers and other ranks, were loyal during their service in the Armed Forces and defended the nation's sanctities, the homeland, and the people's honor.

They sacrificed themselves for the sake of the sacred duty. May God bestow mercy and paradise upon them, grant them the ranks of righteous people, and grant us and their families patience. Let people sacrifice for the sake of great Iraq and its honorable people and great principles. We are from God and to Him we shall return.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 January 1988

Communique No 2,997

JN231802 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,997 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With Almighty God's help and the determination of loyal men, our victorious Armed Forces are heading toward glory and success by occasionally inflicting further losses on our country's enemies, the Khomeyniites. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force carried out the following missions last night and today:

a. At 0130 [2230 GMT] yesterday, the rapacious hawks attacked a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate, effective hit.

b. At 1450 [1150 GMT] today, a destructive blow was dealt to a surface-to-air missile battery in the southern sector of the operations theater.

After carrying out these missions, all of our planes returned safey to their bases. God be praised.

2. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector spotted enemy groups trying to approach our forward positions at different times yesterday. Our units confronted them with all types of weapons, killing 230 persons. The rest fled pursued by Iraqi fire. Elsewhere in the sector, one mortar was destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up.

3. One infantry position, one machine gun, and one observation post were destroyed and one shovel [preceding word in English] was burned in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Seven enemy personnel were killed and one ammunition dump was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One mortar was destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One ammunition dump was blown up and two infantry positions were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. One 106-mm gun, one infantry position, and one raft were destroyed and one shovel was damaged in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. One vehicle was burned, one ammunition dump was blown up, and two infantry positions and three machineguns were destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 January 1988

Communique No 2,998

JN241740 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,998 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious men of Iraq whose arms are achieving victories will continue to fight with the spirit of truth and principles and will achieve victories over their defeated enemy. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Formations of our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked groups of scoundrels trying to approach our forward positions. Other units in the same sector dealt effective artillery and mortar blows to enemy units, engineering efforts, and vehicles. As a result, our units inflicted important losses on the scoundrel aggressors. Our units killed 116 men, wounded others, blew up 14 ammunition dumps, and destroyed 7 vehicles, 2 106-mm guns, 1 bulldozer, and 1 medium machinegun.

2. Two scoundrels were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Two ammunition dumps were blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Five infantry positions, three machinegun emplacements, and one shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. One SPG-9 gun and three infantry positions were destroyed and one vehicle was burned on the VII Army Corps front.

7. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

8. At 1135 [0935 GMT] today the criminal enemy sent forth two of its aircraft which attacked residential areas in the township of Sayyid Sadiq and the Nasr housing complex in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The attack martyred 1 civilian, wounded 17 civilians, including 7 children and 6 women, and destroyed a number of houses. Mercy to our martyr and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 January 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN251213 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1205 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Statement issued by a military spokesman on 25 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of our firm course to deprive the Iranian regime of its oil supplies, our Air Force continued to attack enemy maritime targets.

At 1228 [0928 GMT] today, the lofty hawks launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After dealing it an accurate, effective blow, the hawks returned with their planes safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 25 January 1988

'Plot of Contacts' With Iran Criticized

JN231814 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1623 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—The INA political editor has said that those involved in endeavors to establish contacts between Iran and the Arabian Gulf states, especially Syria, are exposing the collective security of the Arab nation and the Arabian Gulf countries to danger.

In a comment today, the INA political editor said those involved in this issue are plotting against the Arab nation's supreme interests, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, contributing to prolonging and expanding the war, and encouraging the Iranian regime to continue its aggressions against Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries.

The political editor emphasized that those who are carrying out these endeavors are violating the Amman summit resolutions, restoring the atmosphere of divisions which preceded the summit, and setting a serious precedent in Arab traditions by allowing Arab parties to deal with invaders and aggressors who covet Arab territory and rights.

In his Friday sermon yesterday, Iranian regime President 'Ali Khamene'i said his regime welcomes these contacts, describing them as a good method.

The political editor warned those who participate in the plot of contacts with Iran that, like others, they will end up facing impending dangers because the Iranian regime's ambitions are not confined to one side only. All this regime wants is to take the Arab countries one at a time [words indistinct] with some Arab sides are entering a new phase of plotting which is opposed to pan-Arab principles, values, and heritage.

The political editor said there is much evidence to show that since Khomeyni came to power in Iran, the ambitions of his regime have not stopped and he has not failed to explain his aims. He has been harming the interests of Arabian Gulf countries, threatening their regimes, carrying out operations of sabotage and explosions in their communities, attacking their sanctities, and bullying them.

The political editor noted that the Iranian regime has not spared anyone its military attacks. It has hampered Arab shipping in the Gulf, launched missiles and air raids, carried out political plots and assassination attempts, mounted premeditated, open aggression against the Mecca mosque, attempted to wrest the management of the Mecca holy shrines from Arab sovereignty, and propagated forged accusations against the region's countries.

The political editor pointed out that the Iranian regime also tried to exhaust the economic resources of the region's states and that its nature, aims, and ambitions are known to all. The editor emphasized that those who are playing the new devious game are committing a sin against the supreme Arab interests and should be deterred and exposed now that the Iranian regime has plunged deep into its impasse before its own people and neighbors, in view of its successive defeats which have put it on the brink of a precipice.

Details of Mubarak Peace Initiative Revealed

TA240614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, met secretly in Europe at the end of the week with Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's political adviser. The meeting is part of the effort to further the political process in our region. This is one aspect of a series of political moves which have been taking place since last week. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami's report:

Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, met in Europe at the end of the week with Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's political adviser, and heard from him details of the peace initiative which the Egyptian president plans to take with him to Washington this week. The aim was to inform the Israeli foreign minister of the details of Mubarak's initiative, which will call for a halt to violence by the inhabitants of the territories for 6 months, a halt to the settlement drive for 6 months, an Israeli declaration of readiness to accept moves which will prepare an international conference, and recognition of the political rights of the Palestinians.

By the way, Tamir's trip was not coordinated with the prime minister's office. The move to coordinate between Shim'on Peres and the Egyptian president is only one of a series of political steps in the past 24 hours. Various people in several capitals have taken the initiative to substitute political action for security action. This refers, among other things, to the visit of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister, who is the current president of the European Community's council of foreign ministers. He came here to learn how Europe can play a part in the political effort.

The UN Security Council is meeting tomorrow to discuss the secretary general's proposals, which are included in the report presented to the Security Council in the wake of resolution 605 which denounced Israel's actions in the territories. Related to this session is Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal, which called on the Security Council to summon a meeting of the foreign ministers of the five permanent members to discuss the convening of an international conference. Washington, which is not interested in leaving the Middle East arena to the Soviet players, is initiating its own moves to further the process, as hinted to the political director general of the Foreign Ministry, who was in Washington last week.

Other protagonists in this episode are Malcolm Hoenlein and Ted Mann, leaders of the American Jewish Congress, who conducted a mission to coordinate moves between Amman, Cairo, and Jerusalem, and made their own peace initiatives; President Mubarak, who will leave this week for Washington to try to recruit the White House to support his initiative; and King Husayn, who will be in Brussels in several days time to hold meetings with European leaders.

These are the initiatives, these are the moves. Last night a minister with whom we reviewed these steps told us that what the gentiles are initiating is certainly important, but what the Jews will say about it is much more important. It highlights the differences existing among us over this issue.

Shamir Comments on Plan

TA250751 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein is leaving today for talks with U.S. Administration officials as Prime Minister Shamir's special emissary. He will explain my views to whoever is concerned, Shamir said. Our correspondent Ya'el Almog spoke with the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Almog] I am not familiar with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative, Prime Minister Shamir said, and therefore I am not prepared to express my opinion of it.

[Shamir] This plan was not proposed to me. It was proposed to the U.S. Government. I will have the opportunity to visit the United States in mid-March, and I will express my opinion at that time.

[Almog] On Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir's meetings with the Egyptian president's political adviser, Shamir said:

[Shamir] I do not know their content, and therefore cannot have a position on them.

[Almog] Shamir condemned the conclusions in the UN secretary general's report on the situation in the territories.

[Shamir] We all consider this report unacceptable. I hope the United Nations will also find it unacceptable.

[Almog] Finally, in Shamir's opinion, there is nothing new in the latest political disagreements within the government.

[Shamir] Look, the disagreements existed before the coalition was set up, and I do not see anything new in them today. As a result, I do not think they constitute a reason for early elections. [end recording]

Peres Expresses Support

TA251132 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning expressed support for President Mubarak's initiative, although Peres says he does not agree to all the points in the new initiative. A statement issued on Peres' behalf says that Mubarak's call for an immediate cessation of all violent acts in the territories is very positive.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 25 January reports that Peres' remarks were made "in a talk held with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni."]

As for the proposal to freeze settlement, the foreign minister says he believes that President Mubarak agrees with him that this has not been a pressing problem during the past few years. This is reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Shim'on Peres toured an area of Tel Aviv today and addressed himself to the message sent by President Mubarak on the international conference issue:

[Begin Peres recording—picked up in progress]...is quite clear. We will not agree to an international conference being imposed on us, nor will we agree to an international conference that will be able to impose a solution on us. Everyone is already in agreement on this. Note Genscher's remarks yesterday and look at Mubarak's letter. He said that the international conference is a way to launch direct negotiations without coercion. [end recording]

Shamir Reiterates Opposition to Mubarak Plan

TA251212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has reiterated his opposition to the international conference. He says that the autonomy plan cannot be revived as long as the international conference idea has not died out. The prime minister was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz spoke with him after the session ended:

[Begin recording] [Zissowitz] Mr Prime Minister, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has sent you a message proposing to initiate an international conference which would serve as an opening for direct negotiations to be held in its framework. Are you still opposed to this proposal?

[Shamir] It is not a matter of stubborn opposition. It is clear to many people—not just to me—that an international conference is the opposite of direct negotiations. We should not expect an international conference to bring us nearer to peace, and we cannot expect it to be Israel's salvation. On the contrary, such a conference might endanger Israel's security and very existence, and we must not fall into this trap.

[Zissowitz] Mr Prime Minister, are you aware of the mounting criticism in the world, in Western countries, regarding Israel's tough policy in the territories and regarding the absence of a political initiative?

[Shamir] I do not consider our policy in the territories tough, as you called it. On the contrary, today everyone should realize that if these disturbances and violent demonstrations are continuing, it is only because Israel's security forces initially—when this wave first erupted—did not use all the measures acceptable in our region for use in similar situations. In other words, had the IDF opened fire and killed people during the first few days, and had it not taken into consideration our moral commandments and the political constraints—which I justify, then it is almost certain that this thing would have stopped immediately. The fact that this wave has continued stems entirely from Israel's desire to prevent bloodshed and avoid heavy casualties. How can you call this a tough policy?

[Zissowitz] Nevertheless, there is criticism in the West, also about the fact that there is no political initiative.

[Shamir] There is criticism in the West, but not about the absence of a political initiative. Those who want an international conference criticize those who do not want an international conference. I think it is perfectly legitimate to say that an international conference is bad for Israel. True, the Arab states prefer an international conference to direct negotiations because it is much more convenient for them, but for precisely the same reason it is bad for us, and we are entitled to refuse and to demand other forms of negotiations.

[Zissowitz] The autonomy plan has resurfaced, whether implemented unilaterally or through an agreement. What do you think of this idea?

[Shamir] The Camp David Accords say that we should reach an agreement on autonomy. They did not mention—and nobody even took this into consideration—any unilateral moves forced upon somebody and implemented without the agreement of all the parties. [end recording]

Ben-Aharon: Plan Unacceptable

TA241707 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office.

[Ben-Aharon] And a very good evening to you, too.

[Shilon] Were you surprised when you heard about the secret meeting Avraham Tamir held abroad with Usamah al-Baz?

[Ben-Aharon] If you and I got wind of it, it cannot have been all that secret. And the answer is, no. I was not surprised, because it is the duty of Tamir and other Foreign Ministry employees to maintain contacts. Any contact with Egypt is welcome.

[Savir] Did you get word of the meeting only after the fact?

[Ben-Aharon] I have not yet been officially briefed on it. All I know about it is from the media.

[Shilon] Based on those media reports, are the items that were discussed in that meeting—as, in fact, in other meetings Avraham Tamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held—acceptable to the Israeli Government?

[Ben-Aharon] I have no idea what was discussed at this specific meeting, and can therefore not answer you about something hypothetical. Any contact with Egypt aimed at promoting relations, removing obstacles, and solving problems is positive. This is what the Foreign Ministry and, in fact, the entire Israeli Cabinet, is there for.

[Shilon] To be more specific, are the ideas suggested by Mubarak as we have learned about them—namely, a 6-month freeze on everything, that is to say violence and settlement activity, coupled with preparations for an international conference—acceptable to you?

[Ben-Aharon] Absolutely not.

[Shilon] Why?

[Ben-Aharon] The idea is inconceivable, first of all because he sees violence as being staged in equal measure by both Israel and those who actually did spark it off. This is unreasonable. We did not launch the violence campaign. The Arabs started it, and you know wnen—at the beginning of history.

[Shilon] Assuming we are not dealing with history here, but with ways to resolve the matter, can these two things not be halted while thought is given to new political avenues?

[Ben-Aharon] No. You must have a realistic basis for this. The moment you draw parallels between the rioters and the Israeli Government and the state of Israel, you are actually undermining your own status, killing any chance for a true dialogue.

[Savir] Are these not actually preconditions?

[Ben-Aharon] No, what are you talking about? Negotiations have never been a precondition. But when others want to force you into a conference in which you are confronted with a certain number of countries that maintain a firm a priori position against you—that is a precondition.

[Shilon] Mr Ben-Aharon, the papers reported today that the prime minister says he is about to leave for the United States with practical suggestions, that he will raise new solutions for the Middle East conflict. Can we tell the United States anything new? In fact, can you suggest anything new even to your fellow Cabinet partners, namely the Alignment? Does Yitzhaq Shamir have a mandate to initiate something new?

[Ben-Aharon] I simply refuse to be taken in by the magic word, innovation. I believe the prime minister intends to explain to Secretary of State Shultz—whose ability to convey the message to our neighbors is highly regarded here—our true position both regarding the framework for the negotiations as well as with respect to the content and our goals; and another topic, whose significance we should not overlook, which is the solution to the refugee problem. [Shilon] So what makes you think that the Americans who will hear these solid Israeli ideas—which they have already heard about in the past—will be convinced this time as they have never been convinced before, particularly against the backdrop of the riots in the territories?

[Ben-Aharon] If the Americans can see that what can be achieved as part of these contacts with Israel is a sincere and applicable position, they too will do their best to persuade Husayn to abandon the idea of an international conference and, for once, assume the risk of showing sincere readiness to sit down and negotiate with us and not show so much fear of his brothers, the leaders of the other Arab states. Then some progress will be made.

[Savir] Meanwhile, is any effort or attempt that somewhat conflicts with this solid position therefore made useless?

[Ben-Aharon] Why should you say this? God forbid! First of all, there must be openness, and everything must be examined in itself. No one here in the prime minister's office, or for that matter in the entire Israeli Cabinet, has ever claimed that he has exclusive rights to wisdom.

[Savir] Is there openness toward the foreign minister's ideas?

[Ben-Aharon] Definitely. If any member of the Israeli Cabinet could put forth the saving formula that could push the situation forward and eliminate the violence, leading us to a solution—he would be welcomed.

[Shilon] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you, too, and shalom.

Mubarak Tells Shamir Events 'Cannot Continue'

TA241942 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1934 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that in the message relayed today by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian president termed the situation in the territories a tragedy, and noted that the current state of affairs cannot continue. President Mubarak strongly urged the prime minister to accept the idea of an international conference as the only possible way to attain peace.

Further Details on Message

TA250552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] President Mubarak has told Prime Minister Shamir that the tragic situation in the territories cannot continue if Israel and Egypt want to uphold the peace process. In a message sent to Shamir, Mubarak said rejection of an international peace conference is a stumbling block to peace. Mubarak again stressed that such a forum would neither prevent nor be a substitute to direct negotiations. Mubarak said any other proposals are not realistic, since King Husayn will not agree to another framework for negotiations. He said there was nothing to fear from an international conference because no outside power will be authorized to impose a decision. Mubarak added that it had been impossible to revive the autonomy talks because of developments following their breakdown in March 1982.

Peres on EEC Sanctions, Jerusalem Curfew

TA240845 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is not apprehensive about sanctions to be imposed by the EEC countries on Israel and says he is in principle opposed to a policy of curfews and violence. Our correspondent 'Oz Shelah spoke to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night, at the end of the dinner he hosted for FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The prime minister can say what he thinks, but I do not think the same way. I do not agree with the prime minister that the international conference is meant to coerce Israel. This is what Mr Shamir thinks, but not what his partners [in the government] think. How many times do we have to say that the international conference will not impose a solution, abrogate agreements, or interfere in the negotiations?

[Shelah] You do not think then that the EEC will impose sanctions on Israel?

[Peres] No, I do not.

[Shelah] Mr Peres, concerning the curfew that was imposed on the Jerusalem neighborhood of Al-Tur: What should we, the citizens of Israel, infer from this move?

[Peres] I do not know the reasons for this curfew. As a rule, I am opposed to curfews just as I object to opening shops by force. I think these are not very beneficial methods.

[Shelah] Do you think, perhaps, that this policy is too harsh and too violent?

[Peres] I think this is a half-baked policy. One can try to impart half-baked ideas, but it is very hard to conduct a half-baked policy. In the absence of a peace process our situation will only worsen. [end recording]

Peres, Shamir Differ During Cabinet Meeting

TA241500 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Political issues were the central subject of the Cabinet meeting this morning, with the prime minister and the vice prime minister expressing opposing views.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the Cabinet's role is to form policies rather than determine how the IDF should launch attacks or deal with riots.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Mr Peres leveled criticism at the remarks made by the prime minister regarding Marrack Goulding's report and the international conference. The prime minister reacted by saying that the international conference is a trap. As for the political issue, he said that the Cabinet is divided in its views, which is a risk that was undertaken when the unity government was formed.

More on Cabinet Session

TA241637 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] For the first time in many weeks, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin could report to the Cabinet today about partial calm in the territories, although he claimed he is not overly optimistic regarding the future. The ferment encompasses a vast population, and the inhabitants of the territories believe they have succeeded in alerting the world to their political struggle and have put it on the international agenda.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman raised a question regarding the IDF soldiers' use of billy clubs, to which Rabin responded by saying: The IDF could not have been allowed to continue to be deprived of a proper answer to the rioting. All the armies in the world employ similar measures. In any event, the truncheons are never used for punishment.

The police affairs minister, the chief of staff, and the coordinator of government activities in the territories also gave security briefings on the situation.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reviewed the latest political initiatives, including the Mubarak plan as presented in Paris over the weekend to Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, by Usamah al-Baz, Mubarak's close aide. In essence, the plan calls for an immediate 6-month halt by Israel of any settlement activity, and a parallel move to end the Palestinian rioting; honoring the Palestinian people's political rights; and a move toward the convocation of a peace conference. At the end of the debate, Peres said: Those who at some point in the future review the minutes of the Cabinet sessions will be flabbergasted. The Cabinet's job is not to determine ways for the IDF to handle riots, but to set a policy. Yet the Cabinet has missed all the chances, one component of it is blocking the other.

Peres and Shamir engaged in a dispute over the idea of the international conference and Marrack Goulding's report on the situation in the territories. Peres claimed that the way it is envisioned, the conference will have no coercive powers. Shamir retorted by saying: This is a trap set by the United Nations, and it will have the power to force things upon us. Peres sees in the Goulding report an attempt at a balanced view, too, not just a negative assessment. Shamir, however, rejected the report out of hand.

The prime minister summarized the debate, saying that the Cabinet differs over the political issue, but the main thing now is to boost the IDF's morale. Peres reacted by saying: You are not the king of the IDF.

Here are some more tidbits from the exchanges in today's Cabinet session: Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz suggested that limitations be imposed on the press insofar as access to the territories is concerned, and warned against signs of weakness on the Israeli side. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur maintained that the political echelon is shirking responsibility, passing the buck to the IDF. Ari'el Sharon praised the defense and the police affairs ministers, and said: I hope we were all shocked yesterday when Knesset Member Darawshah called Yitzhaq Rabin a murderer. Rabin remarked: That must have reminded you of something.

Shamir Sends Aide to U.S. To Explain Policy

TA241826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 JAn 88

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein will leave for Washington tomorrow to hold political talks with administration officials. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that the mission has not been coordinated with the Israeli Embassy in the United States.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir decided to send Mr Rubinstein to explain Shamir's stand regarding the recent peace initiatives launched in connection with events in the territories. These initiatives were discussed several days ago during the visit to Washington of Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry.

Shamir on Unrest, Shevardnadze, Mubarak

TA231231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by David Essing on 22 January, "in Jerusalem"—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I would like to see a certain return to normal life, because I hope that more and more people among the inhabitants of the territories of Gaza, Samaria, and Judaea understand now that by violence they will not get anywhere and that all this violence is useless and it brings only suffering and victims.

[Essing] We've seen in the past few days a new Israeli policy, literally a carrot-and-stick policy. Are you not concerned, sir, that this is causing major damage to Israel's image, primarily in the United States?

[Shamir] Israel tries all the time not to bring to the death of demonstrators, to avoid bloodshed. But, we are facing a very difficult situation when all these rioters know that by rubber bullets, by tear gas, they are not hurt and these means are not deterring. Therefore, the Israeli Army, the Israeli security forces have to look for other means that deter and not kill. I have sometimes the impression that for us it's all right to be killed, to be wounded, but it's not all right when we defend ourselves and when we protect the security of our country.

[Essing] But this is not what Israeli soldiers have been trained for. They have been trained to defend the country and for regular warfare, and so forth. What can you tell Israeli soldiers who have to face this kind of task today, to fulfill this kind of duty, to fulfill the orders they are being given?

[Shamir] It's true that our soldiers are trained for other purposes and for other missions, but now they are facing—and we are facing—this new form of warfare against our country. And, it endangers the country, not only the security of the country, also the existence of the country, no less than former means. We have to find the means to protect ourselves against this attempt to endanger our existence and I am sure that our soldiers understand it, and they do it.

[Essing] On the political level: The Soviet foreign minister, Shevardnadze, has appealed to the United Nations to convene the Security Council to decide upon a preparatory conference leading to an international conference. Mr Shamir, what is your reaction to the Soviet appeal?

[Shamir] Well, it's not surprising. This is the Soviet policy, this proposal is a Soviet proposal since a long date and they try to make the best of it. They do it for propaganda aspirations. Well, anybody of us knows that it is against our interests. We have to defend ourselves against that, and I hope that other members of the United Nations will oppose also this Soviet new attempt.

[Essing] But the fact that the Soviets are now allowing an Israeli delegation to come to Moscow—you don't see this as a shift, a softening in Soviet policy toward Israel?

[Shamir] Well, I think that this new move of Soviet diplomacy is a positive one, but we don't have to exaggerate the importance of it. After all, we have permitted Soviet diplomatic delegations to come to Israel for a long time without any reciprocity. And, I think it's more than reasonable that the Soviets have to permit our people to send such a delegation to the Soviet Union.

[Essing] Not only the Soviet Union, but Egypt's President Husni Mubarak is also approaching the UN Security Council, also calling for an international conference and he is talking about a new peace plan. How do you react to that?

[Shamir] I don't know what is the new peace plan of President Mubarak. His position supporting the idea of an international conference is well known, is not new. All the Arab countries prefer this international conference over the direct negotiations which we want and which we propose.

[Essing] Western Europe, the Western European countries are also talking about an international conference. They are even imposing economic sanctions on Israel over what has been happening in the territories. Is there not a danger of some kind of international political steamroller now facing Israel with regard to the international conference?

[Shamir] It's not surprising for us, the European position about international conference is also well known. We know the European positions since the announcement of the Venice Declaration. We have different positions all the time, and in spite of it we have with Europe friendly relations and we have maintained, and we still maintain, permanent dialogue with the European community and we try to convince of our policy and work for each other.

And, about the various positions and the situation of the United Nations: it is not very encouraging, but we know since a long time that we are always in a very slim minority in the United Nations in all the votes that are related to our problems. And, in spite of it, we continue not only to exist, but also to make progress in all regards.

[Essing] But also at the United Nations, Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has been talking about the issue being an international issue, that the Palestinian refugees are an international issue and must be dealt with on an international basis.

[Shamir] But it could be discussed with various nations who are involved in this conflict, because there is a conflict. We are always of the opinion that we have to negotiate about this conflict with the Arab parties, with our partners. You have mentioned, for instance, the problem of the refugees. I support the idea that an international body will solve this problem of the camps of refugees that exist, that still exist since 1948 without any justification, but because of the Arab intransigence to cause a long suffering of their people for some political gains.

[Essing] When it comes to negotiations, are you referring to Jordan's King Husayn? Is he the partner for you in these negotiations?

[Shamir] We are ready to negotiate with all our partners, and with any of them. We have expressed it all the time. That is the difference between us and the Arab parties. We are ready always to negotiate even without any preconditions. The Arabs, they reject all the time our readiness to negotiate and our proposals to negotiate.

[Essing] But hasn't Husayn told Shim'on Peres that he is not Al-Sadat, that he can't go it alone the way that Al-Sadat... maybe he told it to you, for all I know. What's in it for Husayn? Does he not need this umbrella to protect him from the rest of the Arab world, from the Soviet Union, from Syria?

[Shamir] Well, I know very well this theory. If he wants really to have peace he has to be ready to come to the negotiations. We have said many times we are ready to negotiate with all the Arab neighbors of us, together or separately. But we don't think that an international conference could contribute something to getting peace. Our conflict is not with the Soviet Union, not with China, not with Britain. We have a conflict with the Arab world, the Arab neighbors of us and therefore we have to negotiate with them.

[Essing] But if Husayn says—listening to this broadcast now in Amman—if he were to come out and say unequivocally, in public, that he is willing to meet with you in direct negotiations within the framework of some kind of international framework, you would still not accept it?

[Shamir] It's not a framework. What the Soviets want, what the Arabs want, is a real conference in which the fate of our area will be decided. That's what they want. For every Arab, for every European, who supports this idea it's clear that getting an international conference is identical with a Palestinian state and with the withdrawal of all the Israeli forces from all the territories controlled by us.

[Essing] You reportedly have been sending envoys, or envoys have been going to Amman and reporting back to you after meeting with Jordanian officials. Has there been any change in recent days in Husayn's position.?

[Shamir] We are making efforts all the time to make some progress in the peace progress. We would want to go on, but unfortunately until now there is not any change in the Arab intransigent positions.

[Essing] And what about Washington's position? The Foreign Ministry official, Yosi Beilin, was there. He says that now the Middle East is higher on the American agenda. They are going to get involved. How do you react to that, Mr Prime Minister?

[Shamir] I have not to rely on some officials of our Foreign Ministry in order to know what are the positions of the United States Government. I am in touch, in constant touch, with the American Government and, as I understand, the United States Government has a deep understanding for our positions.

[Essing] Finally, coming closer to home: There is an increasing demand from your critics for early elections. They say that what you are interested in is to sit tight, to maintain the status quo, and this is not the time to do this, particularly with the situation in the territories.

[Shamir] Well it's not true. I don't think this is the position of my critics. It's the position of the Labor Party, of a part of the Labor Party, not of all of them. We are going to have elections. We will have elections in a few months according to our law. I don't see any necessity to have early elections at this time when we are facing, when we are involved in a confrontation, in a bitter confrontation, with our rivals and enemies. I don't think that this is the most appropriate time to have these election clashes and confrontations. Therefore, I prefer to have these elections at due time. Well, about the status quo, I said it many times: I am not a great believer in status quo because status quo is not peace. We want to have a formal peace with all our neighbors and I still believe that thanks to our efforts and with God's help we will get it.

[Essing] But isn't reasonable proper government built on consensus? This consensus does not exist today between the Labor and Likud Party. With regard to the people, nobody really knows what the people of Israel think about, what should be done now in light of the violence in the territories.

[Shamir] We have a large consensus on many issues. The only difference that exists is on the issue of an international conference. There is no disagreement inside the government about the way to handle these riots in the territories or Gaza, Samaria, and Judaea. Therefore, I don't see any reason for immediate elections.

FRG Foreign Minister Arrives for 1-Day Visit

TA231824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived in Israel a short while ago for a 1-day visit. Prior to arriving here Genscher had visited Washington, Paris and Damascus. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that this evening Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will host Genscher for a dinner and ceremony at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Tomorrow Genscher will meet with the Jerusalem mayor, the Knesset speaker, the president of the state, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He is also slated to meet with Palestinian notables.

Peres Hosts Dinner 23 Jan

TA240532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Arriving in Israel last night, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said he wished to improve mutual understanding and not just give advice. At a dinner given in his honor by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Genscher said he hopes to help to find a solution to problems which are a burden on Israel and, therefore, a source of concern to West Germany. Genscher was speaking in German.

In his reply, Peres said hostility is not winning the day and understanding also has a role to play, and he praised the role which Genscher has played in European politics.

[Begin Peres recording] I think that among the foreign ministers, looking around, you are the man who did introduce so much balance in German politics and in world politics. And, when you have an earthquake or a very large building it is balance, maybe more than foundations, that hold this structure together. [end recording]

Our reporter Jack Katzenell says the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is playing down Genscher's criticism in Damascus of Israel's policy in the territories and his praise for Syria's President al-Asad. Foreign Ministry sources note that Genscher came out in support of an international conference in the face of Al-Asad's position that it was impractical at this time.

Meets With Herzog, Peres

LD241241 Hamburg DPA in German 1159 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Jerusalem (DPA)—Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was received for a 1-hour talk today by the Israeli state president. The Israeli head of state emphasized that the latest bloody clashes in the occupied territories have triggered a lively discussion in Israel right across party lines. However, international pressure will not help the Isrelis to find a political solution to the Palestine problem.

Genscher, who arrived Saturday evening for a 24-hour visit to Israel, visited the Yad Vashem holocaust memorial today. This morning he had talks with Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek, and with representatives of Parliament and of the parties. The FDP politician said in a talk with liberal deputies that the Soviet Union, during the discussion of the Gulf conflict in the United Nations, has shown that it was prepared to help solve regional conflicts with the other superpower. This is a "welcome development" and an "encouraging sign", possibly also for the Middle East. It also raises hopes for the Arab-Israeli conflict. The question of an international Middle East conference which would be attended also by the Soviet Union is being intensely discussed in Israel.

At noon today the federal foreign minister met for a private talk with Israel's Foreign Minister Peres. During a dinner in honor of Genscher last night, Peres praised the guest as a "friend" and "politician of conciliation" both in the Federal Republic and in the international arena. [passage omitted]

Talks to Palestinian Notables

TA241733 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is visiting Israel, conferred today with the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and other personalities. This afternoon, the German minister met with Palestinian figures. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed reports:

[Begin recording] [Melamed] The meeting held at the American Colony Hotel was attended by Rashad al-Shawwa, Hanna Sinyurah, and Ilyas Frayj, among others. We were told that no pressure was applied on Genscher, and that the meeting was calm. The main topic discussed, naturally, was the international conference with the participation of the PLO. Said Ilyas Frayj:

[Frayj, speaking in English] Mr Genscher told us that Germany vigorously supports the idea of an international peace conference, and that it is the only way to (?help peace.)

[Melamed] Mr Genscher told us that the FRG is a firm supporter of an international conference. We told him, Frayj added, that only with the participation of the PLO could such a conference be held. [end recording]

Supports Peace Conference

LD241744 Hamburg DPA in German 1611 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Jerusalem (DPA)—Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has supported an international Middle East conference in his talks with the Israeli leadership. The FDP politician also criticized the occupation policy, but stressed that he had mainly come to Israel to inform himself and not to dispense advice or make proposals. He promised to support the ratification of the trade agreement with Israel within the EEC. The European Parliament had in the first instance rejected ratification because of the recent bloody unrest.

State President Hayim Herzog and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres warned against international pressure on Israel in their talks with Genscher. Israel has also been surprised by the extent and quality of the latest unrest, Herzog said. In the meantime a search was going on in all parties for new political solutions. However, pressure from abroad would be of little help. Foreign Minister Peres said that Israel would not have a solution forced upon it. However, an international conference would set the peace process in motion and help calm the situation in the occupied territories.

The role of the EEC in the peace process was discussed during the talks between Peres and Genscher. According to his ministry peres said that Europe could play a mediating role between the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Arab states. Soviet participation would not be possible without the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. Genscher reported on his talks during his visits to several Arab states in recent months. Jordan's King Husayn and the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak are expected to visit Bonn in February.

During his meeting with Liberal members of the Knesset, he said that Moscow had proved during the UN debates on the Gulf war that it was prepared to cooperate in solving regional conflicts. This was a "pleasing development" and possibly an "encouraging sign" for the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

Early this evening a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is a strong opponent of an international peace conference, is planned. A surprise addition to Genscher's program of talks is a meeting with the Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport. Foreign Minister Genscher intends to fly on to Brussels this evening.

Meets With Shamir, Peres

TA241936 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Remarks made by the FRG foreign minister in an interview with our correspondent Dan Eshel make it clear that he reached greater understanding on the issue of an international conference with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres than with the prime minister. This afternoon, Minister Genscher held a lengthy meeting with the prime minister, after which he spoke to our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] Genscher and Shamir held a meeting, but no details about it are known so far. In an interview with us, Minister Genscher refused to expound on Prime Minister Shamir's stand regarding an international conference. We differed on the subject of an international conference, he said, adding: [Passage omitted] You do know that the international community supports the convocation of such a conference, with the purpose of bringing about direct talks between the parties. This is the essence of all my talks here. You are more familiar than I am with the stands of my interlocutor, and I would not like to elaborate on the contents of our conversations here, for this is the business of those with whom I talked.

As for the additional protocol not yet ratified by the European Parliament, Genscher says: [Passage omitted] I have already notified the European Parliament of the stand held by the German representation to the EEC, which is that an agreement should be reached. I hope this request will be accepted.

The accord on the international conference issue, excluding the Venice document, of course, on which the EC insists, was greater when Genscher talked with Minister Peres at lunch. [end recording]

Urges Mideast on Summit Agenda

LD242050 Hamburg DPA in German 1831 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Jerusalem (DPA)—Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has stressed the pressing urgency for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He has called for the issue to be put at the top of the agenda of international politics.

At the Soviet-U.S. summit planned for the early summer in Moscow, the Middle East problem should be discussed as a priority, Genscher said at the end of his 24-hour visit to Israel. During his talks with the Israeli Government he reiterated the concern of the EEC and the Federal Republic over the Israeli policy of occupation.

Genscher pointed to the good and friendly relations between the Federal Republic and Israel. [passage omitted]

Meets With Rabin, Departs

TA242010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher held an unscheduled meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening prior to winding up his visit here and departing for Germany. The meeting delayed his departure by 1 hour. The FRG foreign minister announced that he had invited his counterpart, Shim'on Peres, for a visit to Germany soon to pursue the dialogue between the two countries and improve bilateral relations.

Gorbachev Confers With Visiting Scientist

TA241541 Tel Aviv Educational Television Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that the Soviet Union vouches for Israel. Gorbachev made these remarks to the Weizmann Institute's Prof Mikha'el Sela', who was attending a scientific convention in Moscow.

Gorbachev further said to Prof Sela': I am convinced that we will arrive at a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Prof Sela', who related this conversation to IDF Radio, has reported it to Foreign Minister Peres.

Shamir Bans Sinyurah From Leaving for 3 Months

TA241751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in his capacity as minister of the interior, has prohibited AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah from leaving Israel for a period of 3 months.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the order, which is based on emergency regulations, was explained by the belief that Sinyurah's exit from Israel could damage state security.

PLO Threatens More Katyusha Attacks on Galilee

TA241949 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The PLO is threatening increased Katyusha firing from southern Lebanon at the Galilee settlements to deter Israel from taking further action to contain the uprising in the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent recalls that the timing of this PLO warning is linked to the end of the internecine fighting in southern Lebanon between the Shi'ites and the Palestinians.

Rare Curfew Imposed on Jerusalem Neighborhood

TA222008 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the Al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem tonight. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that this was done following riots and stone throwing incidents in the neighborhood. The order for the curfew was signed by the commander of the Central Command.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this is the first time in many years that a curfew has been imposed within the boundaries of the city of Jerusalem.

Mayor: Curfew 'Unnecessary'

TA231433 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek told notables of the Al-Tur neighborhood that disturbances ultimately harm the neighborhood itself. The notables replied that they are unable to control the rioters. Our correspondent Yosi Rivlin reports that this exchange was made during Mr Kollek's tour this morning of the Al-Tur neighborhood which is under curfew. The mayor complained that he had not been consulted before the curfew was imposed on Al-Tur. In his opinion, despite the difficulties in Jerusalem, it is unnecessary to adopt measures which have not been resorted to in 20 years.

4 Detained in Al-Tur

TA231630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The police detained four people in the Al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem suspected of having participated in the severe disturbances that took place in the neighborhood this past week. Our correspondent Yosi Rivlin adds that this afternoon all the men of the village [as heard] were taken out of their homes and concentrated in a local school for the purpose of interrogating and identifying the suspects.

Deputy Commander Yosef Yehuday, commanding officer of the Jerusalem District Police, said that the serious disturbances in Al-Tur necessitated the adoption of the grave measures. He expressed the hope that the residents will understand the message inherent in the imposition of the curfew and will stop the disturbances which are causing damage, especially for tourists who visit the Mount of Olives and the Intercontinental Hotel.

Curfew Lifted 23 Jan

TA231816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The curfew on the Al-Tur neighborhood in East Jerusalem has been lifted. In the afternoon the curfew was broken for 2 hours to allow the residents to stock up on food. Eventually, however, the police retracted their intention to continue the curfew and lifted it totally. Our correspondent Yosi Rivlin notes that the curfew on this neighborhood lasted less than 24 hours. During the curfew the police carried out searches for people suspected of participating in the grave disturbances that took place in the neighborhood this past week. Four were detained. [passage omitted]

More Disturbances 24 Jan

TA241545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Several instances of rioting took place today in East Jerusalem and its suburbs. Our correspondent Yosi Rivlin reports that riots occurred in the 'Anata refugee camp, a road was blocked at Herod's Gate, and another road was blocked in Bayt Safafa where inhabitants also threw stones and the police found several firebombs.

Arab MK Darawshah Resigns From Labor Party

TA231426 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah has announced he is leaving the Alignment in protest against Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy in the territories. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that MK Darawshah announced this in a demonstration by several thousand people in Nazareth. He also called on all Arab members of the Alignment to leave the party and join him.

The Nazareth and Shefar'am mayors as well as a Peace Now representative also spoke during the demonstration in Nazareth.

Demonstration in Nazareth Supports Territories

TA232044 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah today announced his resignation from the Labor Party and the establishment of a 1-man Knesset faction. In a talk with our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran, Darawshah said he had decided to withdraw from the Labor Party in protest against the suppressive policy in the territories carried out with the support of the vast majority of party members. [passage omitted]

MK Darawshah announced his resignation this afternoon during a mass rally held in Nazareth. Slogans such as "PLO in" and "The IDF out," as well as slogans denouncing Rabin and Shamir were displayed during the protest rally. The demonstration ended without the intervention of the police, who maintained a large presence in the area. Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] The Arab street in Israel has been stormy for several weeks already due to the incidents in Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria. This storm has had passive expression, has found its way into the Arabic-language press, and in recent days has had violent expression, too, in Wadi 'Ara, Shefar'am and the old part of 'Akko.

The black signs held up during today's demonstration in Nazareth, which was organized by all elements of the Arab sector in Israel, referred to places and incidents where rioters and demonstrators were killed. All calls and slogans urge the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories. The world press is also represented in Nazareth today by a large number of journalists and photographers. [end recording]

Peace Now Demonstrates in Tel Aviv 23 Jan

TA232049 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The Peace Now movement this evening staged a mass rally at Malkhe Yisra'el Square against the occupation and for the withdrawal of IDF forces from the territories. There are two versions about the number of the participants: One talks of more than 80,000 people, the other of several thousands only. There was a brief brawl at the beginning of the rally when some youths burst out with calls against Peace Now. The youths were removed and a large police presence maintained order. Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, a representative of the Committee of Arab Local Authorities, delivered a speech in Arabic during the demonstration.

Curfew on Three Gaza Strip Camps Lifted 24 Jan

TA240538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The curfews have been lifted at three refugee camps in the Gaza Strip this morning. They are: Al-Nusayrat, Al-Burayj, and Al-Mughazi. The head of Southern Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay took the step after a weekend of calm at the camps and after several meetings over the weekend with local residents. Curfews remain in effect at the Jabalyah refugee camp and in one of the neighborhoods in the Rafah camp.

Incidents in Ramallah

TA250718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown early this morning in the Ramallah area at a bus which was transporting workers. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew on the Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta refugee camp and the blockade on the village of Si'ir remain in force, while the curfew on the new and old 'Askar camps was lifted. Shops in the Wadi al-Jawz and the Damascus Gate areas in Jerusalem remain closed this morning.

Live Ammunition Injures 2

TA241722 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] There was relative quiet in the territories today, except for a disturbance in Ramallah this afternoon in which youths hurled various objects at IDF soldiers who tried to disperse them by using rubber bullets and tear gas. When all this failed, some of the soldiers were forced to open fire. According to an initial report, a youth who was injured by the shooting arrived at the hospital, accompanied by another resident who apparently was hit by a rubber bullet.

Deportees Cancel Appeal; Harassment Probe

TA251644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Four Gaza inhabitants who were facing deportation this afternoon instructed their attorneys to cancel their appeals to the High Court of Justice. The appeals would have been debated on Wednesday before a five-judge panel. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that one of the reasons for the deportees' decision is their lawyers' refusal to raise certain demands before the court that constitute contempt of court.

This morning, Attorney Felicia Langer submitted a complaint to the attorney general charging harassment of Gaza Strip residents. The complaint regards illegal use of force and the damaging of residents' property. She claims this harassment is in accordance with the defense minister's policy. Felicia Langer demands the immediate investigation of both those who issued these illegal instructions and those who carry them out.

Commanders 'Ease Up' on 'Policy of Blows'

TA231948 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] IDF commanders in the territories will limit the use of blows and will increase supervision of the conduct of forces in the area following some irregular cases in recent days. Our army affairs correspondent reports that in the wake of violent behavior unconnected to disturbances, the commanders, fearful of provocative acts [by IDF soldiers], decided to ease up somewhat on the firm policy introduced into the territories lately.

Command in Territories Expanded, Upgraded

TA250605 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Dozens of IDF companies are being stationed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The large number of forces in the territories, their reinforcement, and the lessons drawn from the situation in recent weeks have led the IDF General Staff to decide to upgrade the level of command in the territories.

The Judaea and Samaria region has been divided into three areas. Brigadier General Z. has been appointed commander of the forces in the Samaria region, which encompasses Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm. Brigadier General B. has been appointed IDF commander in Judaea, the Hebron District. A senior officer, holding the rank of colonel, has been appointed commander of the forces in Ramallah and Al-Birah. Brigadier General M. has been appointed commander of the Gaza Strip region, and operating under him are several officers holding the rank of colonel who are in charge of forces in this region. It should be noted that until approximately 1 month ago, a single officer, holding the rank of colonel, was in command of the entire Gaza Strip, while one other officer, holding the same rank, was in command of the entire Judaea and Samaria region.

The IDF General Staff has not yet decided if and when the status quo ante will be reinstated, or whether an officer at the brigadier general rank will remain in command of the region. The senior officers in the territories were appointed on short notice, and were given little time to study the situation and develop methods of operation.

IDF Spokesman Confirms 'Deviations' by Soldiers

TA250616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Two Knesset members of the Citizens Rights Movement, Dedi Zucker and Yosi Sarid, are submitting a report today to Cabinet ministers and to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The report is based on testimony the two collected during their visit to the Gaza Strip last week. Reporter Mark Weiss asked Dedi Zucker what was contained in the report.

[Begin recording] [Zucker] The report contains a number of evidences, affidavits, and many things that we have seen or heard in our own eyes and ears that have to do with the policy that the Army was asked to carry out by the politicians. In addition to the stick policy, we have seen the smashing-window policy. We have been shocked by the fact that hundreds of windows were just smashed by soldiers. We have seen other things like abusement of hundreds of people there in the camps, and we came back shockingly by the face that we are getting in the Gaza Strip.

[Weiss] Did you see any signs of lack of food in the camps during your visit?

[Zucker] No, no signs of lacking of food, no signs of lacking of doctors, no signs of lacking of powder milk. We have asked these questions and no answer assured these false things that we have heard in the communications before. [end recording]

Reacting to the report, the Army spokesman says the IDF is aware that there may have been deviations from the norm in certain cases. He said that the Army is dealing and will in the future deal severely with such cases. The Army spokesman said the soldiers have been instructed to use reasonable force. In no instance have they been told to apply force without reason.

King, Queen To Visit Austria in February

JN251333 Amman Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur will pay an official visit to Austria upon an invitation from Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and Mrs Waldheim.

A Royal Court official announcement said the visit will take place during the first half of February.

Soviet Proposal on Peace Conference 'Welcomed'

JN231823 Amman Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The Jordanian Government has welcomed the proposal made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze calling for the activation of efforts by the permanent members of the UN Security Council to convene an international Middle East peace conference to find a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

A spokesman for the Jordanian Government said Jordan was acquainted with the contents of the message addressed by Mr Shevardnadze on January 20th to the United Nations secretary general to this effect.

The spokesman noted that the Soviet proposal is in line with the collective Arab position which materialized at the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November.

He said: Jordan views the Soviet proposals as a serious and effective step contributing to giving momentum to the peace process in the region. He said: Jordan hopes the permanent members of the Security Council will respond favorably to the Soviet proposal.

Statement Says 23 PFLP Members Arrested

JN231615 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1500 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] A PFLP statement issued in Damascus today says the Jordanian authorities have arrested 23 PFLP members as well as a number of Palestinians.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i announced in Amman the day before yesterday that Jordanian security forces had arrested 23 PFLP members charged with attempts to instigate riots in Jordan.

Damascus Memo Seized

JN231702 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1530 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Reports from Jordan say 23 members of the terrorist PFLP were arrested by Jordanian authorities recently on charges of attempting to instigate disturbances and riots in Jordan in accordance with instructions they received from Damascus.

Zayid al-Rifa'i, who announced this in a closed session of the Jordanian Parliament held on 21 January, said the Jordanian authorities seized a memorandum sent from Damascus to the PFLP members.

The memorandum included instructions to disturb order with the aim of undermining Jordanian authority.

It is noteworthy that Jordan has not officially announced this, but the PFLP issued a strongly-worded protest today urging Jordanian authorities to release the detainees.

Junblatt Warning on Presidential Elections
NC241807 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of public works, transport and tourism, has cautioned against undermining the upcoming Lebanese presidential elections. He said that this would pave the way for a series of dangers, the least of which is the partition of Lebanon. Junblatt, who is currently visiting Moscow with Communist Party leader George Hawi, welcomed the Soviet stand which calls for the confrontation of all dangers that have the partition of Lebanon as their aim and for the preservation of the country's unity and Arabism.

In his statement, Minister Junblatt discussed the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. He said that the uprising provides unequivocal evidence that Israel has utterly failed in its policy, which it claims is democratic, civilized, and just. The uprising, Junblatt added, has poignantly shown that it is impossible for the Israeli regime and its supporter, U.S. imperialism, to ignore the rights of the Palestinian people. He noted that the uprising paved the way to lifting the siege of the camps. This is the first concerete result of the uprising, indicating that the Palestinians can be independently represented. He said that the uprising shows that the Palestinians must be independently represented at an international conference. He added: We will exercise our rights within the framework of this conference.

Swedish Defense Minister Departs 22 Jan
NC221330 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Swedish Defense Minister Roine Carlsson left Beirut International Airport today for home. During his visit to Lebanon he met with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Minister Nabih Birri, and Amin al-Jumayyil. He also inspected the Swedish UNIFIL contingent in southern Lebanon.

USSR, Algeria Envoys Reportedly Urge Withdrawal
NC250705 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] It has been learned that the Soviet and Algerian ambassadors in Lebanon have recently held intensive meetings with Palestinian leaders that have been couched in total secrecy. During the meetings, they assessed Minister Nabih Birri's move to end the camps war and lift the military siege on the camps, and the participants expressed their appreciation for the unilateral initiative implemented by the Amal Movement. The Soviet and Algerian ambassador also explicitly asked the Palestinian groups to withdraw from the east Sidon villages.

Palestinian leaders have reportedly taken a positive stand toward the Soviet and Algerian ambassadors' request, promising to convey it to the unified command of the Palestinian groups in Sidon.

The Amal Movement has refused to comment on a statement made by Salah Salah, the secretary of the Palestinian Command in the south, who said that the 'Ayn al-Dulb-Jinsnaya-Al-Qurayyah Road will be reopened to facilitate the movements of the people in the south. The Amal Movement only said that it is insufficient, and that the solution lies in the withdrawal of the Palestinians to their former positions.

Birri Initiative, Syrian Deployment Praised
NC250627 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The Fatah Movement Command in Lebanon issued a statement yesterday praising Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's initiative and describing it as positive. The command expressed its appreciation to the Syrian leadership for agreeing to assume responsibility for security in the Beirut camps. It said: The Syrian presence guarantees the security of our people and reassures the people in and around the camps.

Syrian Defense Minister Inspects Troops
NC251303 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] It was learned today, through the Syrian command in Beirut, that Syrian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mustafa Talas inspected Syrian troops stationed in Beirut, on the Al-Shuf mountain south of the capital, and in the Al-Biqa' Valley yesterday. According to the same sources, Brig Gen Talas held a meeting in West Beirut with the commanders of Syrian forces deployed in that sector. [passage omitted]

Syrians Ask Iran To Give Up Suspected Abductor
NC231330 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian security authorities have asked Iran to turn over 'Imad Mughaniyah, who is currently in the Iranian city of Qom. He is suspected of carrying out bombings against the Syrians in West Beirut, particularly the bombing at Beirut Airport, and also of collaborating with the pro-'Arafat Force 17. The reports add that the Syrian security authorities consider 'Imad Mughaniyah the principal abductor of foreign hostages in Lebanon. They are waiting for the obstacles precluding his return to Beirut, either via Damascus or via Beirut Airport, to be removed. Mughaniyah possesses an Iranian passport given to him to prevent pursuit by intelligence services.

According to the same reports, Mughaniyah attempted to assassinate some Syrian intelligence officers, including Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an. A news blackout was imposed on reports of an attempted bombing of Kan'an's car.

The Voice of Lebanon has also learned that the Syrian Military Command has asked Brig Gen Kan'an not to travel to Beirut after it received information that there may be an attempt on his life by extremist religious groups. Kan'an's duties were reassigned to Colonel 'Ali Hammud, and his movements in Al-Biqa' have been kept secret.

REUTER Cites Source on 4 University Hostages

NC250647 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0610 GMT 25 jan 88

[Excerpt] Yesterday marked the 1st anniversary of the kidnapping of four Beirut University college professors.

REUTER cites a security source as saying that the fate of the four hostages is part of the hostage crisis in Lebanon and is no longer linked to an exchange process involving Arab detainees. The agency adds that the captors are using the exchange deal purely as a pretext to serve their political purposes. Citing a highly placed Muslim security source, REUTER says that the captors are members of Hizballah and that they are using a suitable facade for political reasons. [passage omitted]

Syrians Arrest 3 Palestinians Outside Shatila

NC231132 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Syrian troops arrested three Palestinians as they were leaving the Shatila camp this morning. The detailed Palestinians are Muhammad Khalil Karrat, Mahmud Khalid 'Awdah, and Mahmud Ayyub al-Misri.

Liberation Front Kills Syrian Army Captain

NC230721 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Front declared this morning that one of its units had killed Syrian Army paratrooper Captain Haytham of the 43d Battalion. The Front explained that the captain and his mistress Ilham were murdered in the port area of Tripoli.

Group Claims Attacks on Syrians in Tripoli

NC241103 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating two explosive devices inside a position of the Syrian occupation army on the road to the Al-Baddawi camp in Tripoli last night. Three Syrian occupation army troops were injured in the operation.

The organization has also announced that it detonated a device 3 days ago near a position jointly held by the Arab Democratic Party and the Syrian Army in the Jabal Muhsin area of Tripoli.

Libyans Training Leftists in Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC231334 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that six Libyans officers have arrived in the Iqlim al-Kharrub area to train a number of young volunteers from leftist organizations, prior to sending them to the battlefront in Chad. The volunteers belong to the PSP, the Communist Party, the Arab Socialist Union, the Communist Action Organization, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, and the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun. The information indicates that the first batch of these volunteers will graduate in February.

The reports add that a Libyan explosives expert was killed during the Israeli raid on the Iqlim al-Kharrub area.

'Violent' Clashes Take Place East of Sidon

NC222007 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] At about 1900 today, violent clashes took place on the combat lines of Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir, east of Sidon, between the South Lebanese Army on the one hand, and the extremist Islamic organizations and the Nasirite Popular Organization, on the other.

Clashes Break Out in Beirut Suburb 23 Jan

NC231257 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 gmt 23 Jan88

[Text] A state of high tension prevails in several areas of the Southern Suburb, particularly in Burj al-Barajinah and Harat Hurayk, where gunmen have appeared following clashes that broke out shortly after noon today between two groups. One group belongs to the family of 'Ali Qazzaz, who was wounded in an explosion in front of his house in Burj al-Barajinah this morning, and the other group belongs to the Amal Movement. Rockets were used in the clashes during which the group supporting 'Ali Qazzaz, who is also an official of the Amal Movement, attacked an Amal security post in Al-Amiliyah. Tension prevailed after 'Ali Qazzaz died from his wounds in the American University of Beirut hospital. Some gunmen were deployed in the area and closed some shops in the 'Ayn al-Sikkah area and its environs after the incident.

Resistance Attacks SLA on Al-Dabshah Road

NC221233 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Last night the Martyrs Khadir Badr al-Din and Ahmad Abu al-Khudud Group detonated an explosive device when a patrol of Agent Lahd's militia was passing on the Al-Dabshah road. A half-track M-113 vehicle was destroyed, and its crewmembers were killed or wounded.

Fatah Claims Firing of Grad Rockets at Israel

NC222038 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Jan 88

[TEXT] The Fatah Movement in Sidon said today that it fired 25 Grad rockets from southern Lebanon in the direction of the Nahariyya, Shelomi, and Goren settlements in northern Israel at dawn today.

Mahmud al-Hasan, a spokesman for the Fatah Movement in Sidon, said this operation came in response to the Israeli measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Removal of Barricades in Camps Continues

NC221816 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Palestinian sources and eyewitnesses have reported that work to remove sand ramparts in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps continued until this afternoon, following the deployment of Syrian forces inside the camps. Eyewitnesses said that movement in the area of the two camps is proceeding normally. The Syrian forces have deployed foot patrols in order to maintain security.

Palestinians Evacuate Road

NC221833 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Palestinian Command Secretary in the south, Salah Salah, has declared that Palestinian forces evacuated the Iqlim al-Tuffah main road this afternoon. He noted that he had informed Minister Nabih Birri about the evacuation. He added that the Palestinians, however, have retained their posts in the towns and hills of Jinsnaya, Al- Mharbiyah, and Baysur.

Sources in the South have noted that the evacuation of the Iqlim al-Tuffah main road will not guarantee the safety of this road's traffic heading toward Sidon. The Palestinians are still present in the aforementioned towns, as well as in the 'Ayn al-Dulb and Al-Qurayyah towns, which are close to Sidon and Harat Sayda.

Withdrawal From E. Sidon

NC231322 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The step to end the camps war in Beirut has constituted a prelude for relaxation in areas east of Sidon. This has been generated by the announcement by a joint Palestinian delegation that it will withdraw Palestinian Revolution forces from Sidon road and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The delegation affirmed that all Palestinian fighters will vacate this road as of 0600 tomorrow, making it safe and passable for everyone.

The delegation also announced that the Palestinian Revolution will release Amal official Hasan Darwish on Monday. The delegation welcomed the Amal Movement leadership's initiative, represented by the release of the first batch of Palestinian detainees. It expressed hope that this file will finally be closed within the next few hours.

Meanwhile, bulldozers continue to remove earth ramparts and fortifications and to open internal roads in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps today. A delegation of the Amal Movement leadership met with a delegation of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] today to assess the steps already taken in the Beirut camps and the unified Palestinian delegation's initiative on the issue of east of Sidon. A second PNSF delegation visited Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy leader of the Higher Shi'ite Council, today to discuss the latest developments in the camps issue.

Amal Opens Roads

NC241236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Amal Movement sources today announced that, as of this morning, the movement opened all the roads leading to the Al-Rashidiyah camp in the Tyre area. The sources also said that bulldozers have begun removing the ramparts and earth barricades from these roads and from the entrances to the camp, in accordance with Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri's initiative to completely lift the siege on the camps.

Meanwhile, according to reports from Sidon, Palestinian fighters withdrew from the main Sidon-Iqlim al-Tuffah Road this morning and removed all armed checkpoints. Amal Movement souces have confirmed these reports. However, the same sources have indicated that there has been no traffic movement on the aforementioned road. They add that a complete Palestinian withdrawal from east of Sidon is required, not only the evacuation of the road to Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Palestinian Forces Withdraw

NC241737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Bulldozers continued removing the ramparts and earth barricades from areas around Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps, particularly the airport road, today. This step is a prelude to the establishment of two internal security forces posts in the two camps. It should be recalled that Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi yesterday said that purpose of the two posts is similar to that of other posts. The minister added that matters relating to travel documents and passports that have been lost by the Palestinians will be dealt with at the posts. Furthermore, services will be rendered to the camp inhabitants at the posts with regard to their needs from the Lebanese Government.

A responsible Palestinian source has affirmed that the Iqlim al-Tuffah road was reopened to all citizens as of 0900 today. The source declared that the Palestinian forces that were deployed on this road have been withdrawn. He noted that bulldozers have begun removing the earth barricades from the approaches to Al-Rashidiyah camp, preparatory to lifting the siege. He added that the atmosphere is good and that all measures are proceeding well.

Early Withdrawal Ruled Out

NC251806 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] According to sources in the internal security forces, earth barricades were removed from the southern entrance of Sabra camp this afternoon. Meanwhile, bulldozers and trucks have been observed removing ramparts from Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir Street in Shatila Camp. Highly placed Palestinian sources have indicated that it is difficult to effect a withdrawal from east of Sidon now. Discussions related to this topic will only take place in the spring, they said.

In another development, Israeli radio cited UNIFIL sources as saying that Amal Movement militiamen continue to besiege the Palestinian camps in the South, despite the movement's decision to lift the siege. The same sources added that Amal fighters have strengthened their presence around Al-Rashidiyah camp and opened fire at Palestinians trying to end the siege.

Al-Shar' Returns From Visit to Saudi Arabia

JN231141 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has returned to Damascus following a brief visit to Saudi Arabia during which he conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

King Fahd received Al-Shar' last night at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh in the presence of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Syrian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Muhammad al-Tall.

Returns From Tunis 24 Jan

JN250638 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 jAN 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night after heading the Syrian delegation to the emergency meetings of the Arab League Council held in Tunis. The meeting discussed supporting the heroic uprising of our people in the occupied Arab territory.

CSSR Official Arrives, Makes Statement

JN242037 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Vasil Bilak, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, arrived in Damascus this evening at the head of a delegation visiting Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party Regional Command within the framework of friendly, cooperative relations between the two parties and countries.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Comrade 'Abdallah al- Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Comrade Sami al-'Attari, member of the Ba'th Party National Command; Comrade Dr Wahib Tannus, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

During the visit, the guest delegation will hold party and political talks and will meet a number of party and state officials. It will also visit some historical and cultural sites in Syria and acquaint itself with a number of achievements of the Ba'th Party under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Bilak made a statement expressing his happiness at being in Syria and meeting with Ba'th Party officials to discuss issues of interest to both parties and countries.

He added: There is no doubt the friendly, cooperative relations between our two parties and countries are strong and developed in all areas. This makes it incumbent on us to continue our meetings to consult on all political, party, and economic issues to serve the interests of our peoples and countries. We will also hold talks on the political situation in the Arab region and the world as well as on issues of common interest.

Received by Vice President

JN251318 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Vice President Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah this morning received Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovkia and secretary of the Central Committee, and his delegation. The Czechoslovakian ambassador in Damascus was present.

They discussed cordial relations between the two friendly countries, ways to promote them, the situation in the region, and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Bilak praised Syria's steadfast stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the imperialist U.S. and Zionist schemes aimed at dominating popular destinies.

Damascus Radio Views Mubarak Call for Peace

JN221252 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] In Cairo, the Egyptian regime has joined its Camp David partners, the United States and Israel, in the call to end the popular uprising in the occupied homeland.

THE WASHINGTON POST has cited the Egyptian regime's president as saying he will ask the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to desist from what he termed the strikes and disturbances for 6 months in return for stopping the building of Zionist settlements, thereby ignoring the uprising's basic demand that the Israeli occupation be terminated and that the usurped rights be regained.

Afghanistan

Funeral Held for Ghafar Khan in Jalalabad

LD222037 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The body of the pride of Afghanistan, Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, great leader of the Pashtuns, indefatigable fighter on the path of peace, freedom, and justice, was buried during a ceremony at his private house in Shesham Bagh, Jalalabad city, at 1230 today, 22 January, in accordance with his will.

Twenty-one artillery shells were fired at the time of the burial in honor of this great leader. The burial ceremony took place in an atmosphere of sorrow and sadness and was attended by more than 200,000 people.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, who took part in the burial ceremony, expressed his profound sympathy and condolences to 'Abdul Ghani Khan, 'Abdul Wali Khan, and other members of the family of Pacha Khan—may his soul be happy—on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan and on his own behalf.

The burial ceremony of the pride of Afghanistan Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan was attended also by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister; some members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; vice chairmen and members of the Council of Ministers; the chairman and a member of the National Front Central Council; leadership delegations of SAZA [Toilers Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan] and SZA [Toilers Organization of Afghanistan]; representatives of social organizations of the Republic of Afghanistan; a number of ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in Kabul; the delegation for peace and solidarity of the Soviet Union; and hundreds of thousands of friends and supporters of the late Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan.

Moreover, the high-ranking government and parliamentary delegation of the Republic of India headed by Shankar Dayal Sharma, vice president of the Republic of India, and Faruq Abdullah, premier of Jamu and Kashmir, also took part in the ceremony.

After the burial ceremony, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, spoke about the exalted pesonality and courageous struggle of the pride of Afghanistan, Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan. He expressed the profound sorrow of the presidential office, PDPA Central Committee, Council of Ministers, and people of Afghanistan to the fraternal people of the Pashtuns and Baluchis, the progressive forces of Pakistan, the peace-loving people of India, and the friends and supporters of Pacha Khan.

In part of his speech esteemed Najibullah said that today we say good-bye to the vanguard of freedom and peace—a figure who lived all his life for freedom, peace, and justice.

Esteemed Najibullah added: I express my heartfelt gratitude to our friendly and fraternal country, the republic of India, in particular to Prime Minister of India His Excellency R. Gandhi, who went to Peshawar to pay respects to Pacha Khan.

Esteemed Najibullah in his speech recalled the struggle for freedom of this earnest friend of the people of Afghanistan, a staunch supporter of the national and democratic April Revolution and an enthusiastic supporter of the policy of national reconciliation.

He added that it was because of his love for the people of Afghanistan that the pride of Afghanistan, Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, stipulated in his will that his body be burried in Jalalabad city.

To pay respect to the militant and freedom-loving pride of Afghanistan, Pacha Khan, we rename the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway Pacha Khan highway, and we present the Lemar medal, the exalted medal of Afghan freedom, to Pacha Khan.

Esteemed Najibullah added: Let me present this great medal to Khan 'Abdul Wali Khan, son of Pacha Khan, who is now the follower of the Pacha Khan path.

The BIA reporters in Jalalabad city report that Shankar Dayal Sharma, vice president of the Republic of India; Mahmud Khan Achekzai, leader of Pashtun Khah Awami Party; Sher Muhammad Meri, a chief of the Baluchi people; and [name indistinct], secretary general of the Awami National Party, spoke at the burial ceremony about the distinguished political figure Pacha Khan and his struggle for freedom. They conveyed their condolences to the members of the Pacha Khan family and his friends and supporters.

At the end of the burial ceremony and after the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and representatives of all sociopolitical organizations, representatives of Afghanistan's provinces, and other participants laid floral tributes on the tomb of the pride of Afghanistan, Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan. They offered a prayer for the pure soul of the late Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan.

According to another report, the funeral procession of Pacha Khan proceeded via Towr Kham border to Jalalabad city around 0900 this morning, escorted by members of his family, friends of the late Pacha Khan, and tens of thousands of people.

As a sign of respect for the militant figure of Pacha Khan at Towr Kham border there were a number of members of the Secretariat and Politburo of the PDPA Central

Committee; vice chairmen and members of the Council of Ministers; Ajmal Khatak; Khari Bakhsh Marry, leader of the Baluchi People's Liberation Front; and tens of thousands of Pacha Khan's friends and supporters; and citizens of Jalalabad city.

After the arrival of the body of Pacha Khan at Towr Kham, Sulayman La'eq, minister of border affairs, spoke on behalf of the party and government leadership and people of Afghanistan, and expressed profound condolences to the family of Pacha Khan on his death.

The presidential office reports that the condolence ceremony of the late pride of Afghanistan, Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan will be convened at 1330-1530 tomorrow, 23 January, in Sherpur grand mosque in Kabul by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the National Front of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Speaks at Funeral

LD231934 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1636 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at the Jalalabad funeral of Pashtun leader Ghafar Khan on 22 January—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Comrades, friends, Pashtun brothers, brave tribes of Nangarhar, and residents of the city: Allow me, on behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan and the PDPA, and on behalf of the Council of Ministers, to offer condolences on the death of Ghafar Khan, the great leader of the Pashtuns and the great national guide, to the lowland Pashtuns, to all Afghan people, to the national democratic forces of Pakistan, and to the brother nation of great India.

In our great sorrow we share our national and Afghan sympathy with the servants of God, the irreconcilible strugglers against imperialism and aggression, with the comrades of Ghafar Khan, with his respectful family, with his truthful successor and son, Khan 'Abdul Wali Khan. We express our fraternal and sympathetic condolences on the death of Ghafar Khan to the Baluchi brothers, who have deep fraternal relations with the Pashtuns in the war of liberation, share the same trenches with them, and follow the same path.

We assure the conscientious and freedom-loving people who advocate peace, freedom, and progress that the banner of peace, freedom, and progress which Ghafar Khan raised against colonialism will not be lowered. It will be taken to higher peaks in the form of a national and anti-imperialist movement of Afghanistan, Pashtunkhwa, and of the whole region. Do not think that the wise man's task is over. There are a thousand more glasses of wine still to be sipped from the vine.

At this great time when the people of Afghanistan and lowland Pashtunkhwa say farewell to the great leader of the cause of freedom, Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, we consider it our duty to cordially thank the great nation of India, its government, its leaders, and the prime minister of India personally, His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi, for looking after Ghafar Khan during his illness and the profound attention paid to him, for going to Peshawar to pay his respects at the funeral of Ghafar Khan, and for the participation of the senior parliamentary and state delegation in the funeral ceremonies.

Let us express our condolences on the death of Ghafar Khan to the freedom- and justice-loving people who are resisting slavery, their lack of freedom, discrimination, oppression, and violence. Let us express our condolences to the patriotic heroes of our national democratic revolution, their second generation, to the sons and daughters of the martyrs and fighters, to all future generations in advance, toward peace and prosperity and in the fight against exploitation and imperialism.

Our friends among progressive mankind, foremost and especially the Soviet people, their party, and their state leadership feel a sense of bereavement and grief at this time of sorrow. Ghafar Khan considered Afghan-Soviet friendship to be useful for the cause of peace and security in the region and he supported the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union in the world.

When we talk about Ghafar Khan we remember a great man who has left the memory of a high degree of manhood in the hearts of hundreds of millions of people. The pride of the Afghans was a great man, who along with the great leader of India, Mahatma Gandhi, and the great political personalities of the East, Jawaharlal Nehru, sacrificed all of his life, all of his abilities, wishes and personal desires for the freedom and prosperity of the Indian subcontinent, for the freedom of the Pashtun masses and for liberating the enslaved peoples from colonialism. He spent almost 40 years in the prisons of the despotic British regime and the Pakistani dictators. He did not surrender any of his wisdom, faith, and Pashtunism in his struggle from the platform of the Association for Afghan Reform, the servants of God, and the All-India Congress. He faced the sword and rejected the gold of the oppressor, the strongman, and the man of might. His bones were broken by the enemy's blows but his determination was not smashed.

The history of the Afghans and the Pashtuns has always been the history of heroes—and it still is. But Ghafar Khan's patriotism and humanism are so wide that the hopes of the Pashtun land and of all mankind are mixed in it. There are no barriers between Afghan and non-Afghan, between black and white, or between Hindu and Muslim in the area. There is, however, separation between the oppressor and the oppressed, between freedom and slavery, between peace and war, and between light and darkness. Ghafar Khan did not want supremacy. He was a fighter for the cause of overthrowing supremacy.

He loved freedom. Here, after our national democratic revolution he [word indistinct] with his own eyes he saw that the regional and international enemies of our freedom who fought against the awakening and freedom of the Indian people also fought against the prosperity and progress of the people of Afghanistan.

He was very much annoyed that the successors of the old colonialism are killing Afghanistan with the hand of Afghans and that homeowners are brought to destroy their own homes. He wanted to see all Afghan people ask for the cessation of the war imposed by outsiders. But his poor health made going to the mountains and ravines and walking up and down hills difficult for him. We did not think that Pacha Khan with his poor health should embark on such a hard campaign.

Our republican state and the PDPA consulted and exchanged views with Pacha Khan on matters related to our revolution. Pacha Khan attached great hope to the revolution of Afghanistan. He believed in the just liberating characteristics of this revolution. He who all his life was against tribal enmities, hostility, and revenge and was the flag bearer of nonviolence could not bear to see this fire in the home of Afghans and Pashtuns. He called for extinguishing this fire.

The national reconciliation policy of the Republic of Afghanistan enjoyed the total support of the pride of Afghanistan, Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, because he believed that national reconciliation pours water on fratricide. Reconcile angry brothers and prevent annihilation.

We need peace and tranquility in the country and region to open the way for our country to grow and flourish. The only thing he hated in the revolution was the fratricide which was imposed on the people of Afghanistan by U.S. imperialism and its friends. Pacha Khan knew that the old usurpers of the world, blood thirsty colonialist and imperialist wolves, are hostile to the Afghan revolution.

Imperialism cannot tolerate that in this country of brave and honorable Afghans. A lamp is lighted to further illuminate the way lost for centuries and to take toiling and patriotic mankind out of the darkness of slavery to the cause of real independence, freedom, and prosperity. Imperialism wants misfortune for us and prosperity for itself, freedom for itself and slavery for us, poverty for us and wealth for itself, annihilition for us and prosperity for itself, humility for us and honor for itself. We do not accept this division! We want to change this balance.

The national democratic revolution has come to change the balance. This is our only delinquence, and because of it we were called infidels at the orders of enemies. Imperialist circles wrongly utilize the name of Islam in their war of propaganda and want to show our policy as against Islam, whereas God himself has guaranteed the safeguarding of Islam and we all believe in it.

The other thing is that our policy is in complete conformity with Islam. Justice loving ulema in their councils and pronouncements have given a categorical statement on this. What can be greater? Our Constitution decidedly guarantees that the sacred religion of Islam is the religion of Afghanistan.

Every wise man knows that the political and warlike invasion of Afghanistan is not for the sake of Islam but is against freedom and progress. It is organized by the enemies of revolution. How could it be envisaged that the usurpers of the rights of the Palestinians and the ones who disturbed the Al-Aqsa mosque would struggle for Islam. This is the same knife that was pulled out of the scabbard in 1929 against Amir Amanullah Khan Ghazi and in 1948 against the red shirts in Babara.

In spite of foreign interference, the train of socioeconomic progress is moving ahead in our independent country. The draft constitution was published on 15 July 1987 for public debate. The Constitution was ratified by the historic and representative Grand Assembly in November. In accordance with the Constitution, the sacred religion of Islam was registered as the official religion of the people of Afghanistan.

The national reconciliation policy of Afghanistan is a complex proposal with national and international, political and economic aspects. The return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and other countries and their rehabilitation, the control of the country's borders, the maintenance of total security in all of Afghanistan, the formation of a coalition government, parliamentary elections, free political party activities, the democratization of various aspects of political life, water and land allotments for the farmers, the solution of agricultural problems, and attracting foreign capital for trade and industry and so forth are the various aspects of national reconciliation.

Once again in the presence of this great gathering I declare that we are looking forward to the success of the Geneva talks on the withdrawal of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. It will be carried out during 1988. Right now there are no Soviet troops in 13 provinces in Afghanistan. If imperialist forces and reactionary forces in the region stop supplying Afghan counterrevolutionaries with arms and equipment and guarantee noninterference in our internal affairs, the withdrawal of these contingents can be accelerated.

At this very place and on this great day and in front of this grand gathering, as we inter our father and the great teacher of peace and freedom, we declare to you Afghans, Pashtuns, Indians, and Pakistanis that we have made many sacrifices to end the war and secure peace. We unilaterally declared a cease-fire. We have made many concessions to the opposition. But we will never compromise on the freedom and national rights of our people, land integration, and national sovereignty and independence.

We, with the goodness of God, have the strength to defend this nest of freedom and honor, this trench of our heroic forefathers, dear Afghanistan, and build it up and transform it into a land of justice, brotherhood, and equality. This was the case of the great Pacha Khan, who devoted his youth, old age, wisdom, conscience, and all his energies to it.

We are proud that Pacha Khan has chosen for his eternal place of peace the city of Jalalabad, the eternal peace place of the progressive and patriotic king of Afghanistan, Amamnullah Khan, the Ghazi. Pacha Khan said bury me in free soil. Bury me in Jalalabad in the soil that has arisen for justice, where the national reconciliation policy, which is connected with nonviolence, and where the call of peace and brotherhood has spread over mountains and deserts, cities and towns, and hearts and consciences.

Very dear audience, I call on you to remember that time will show that this last creative and historic decision of Pacha Kkan is in the interests of our nationalistic and patriotic people. The greatness and farsightedness was hiddin in this, as well. Wait until the sun rises. With dawn there is hope.

The highway from Peshawar to Jalalabad is proud to be once again, in the course of history, a witness of the gigantic funeral procession of the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist figure of the Indian subcontinent. Let us call this road in Khyber Valley, Pacha Khan Road.

Pacha Khan was called the father of freedom and the pride of Afghans. The Republic of Afghanistan decided to award the medal of Azadai Lemar [Sun of Freedom] to the father of freedom. I give this medal to his son, Khan 'Abdul Wali Khan, the follower of his path, leader of national democratic struggle, and a great friend of the Afghan nation.

Bomb Explodes During Funeral

LD221935 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1725 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Esteemed brethren: Today, during the funeral of a distinguished figure, Pacha Khan, a bomb that was brought onboard a bus by the counterrevolutionaries exploded in the parking lot for buses from the lowland Pashtuns.

As a result of this blast, two Muslim Afghan children and one male Afghan were martyred, and 40 of your brothers were injured. A number of motor vehicles were also destroyed.

Brothers, on such a day as this, their leader declares that they are abiding by the ritual and code of the Pashtuns and they will not fire on this day. But it has been put well by a poet: How bold is the thief with a lamp in his hand.

Despite this vow, they have done this act. It means that instead of our hand they fired at our hearts. On the day of the funeral of Pacha Khan I call on the tens of thousands of participants to declare it an inhuman act, an inadmissable and anti-Afghan act, an act hostile to the brotherhood of our people and you Pashtun brothers. We should formally condemn it and tell the whole world that we abhore it and consider this criminal act an example of inhumanity and homicide.

Further on Explosions

BK221514 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 22 (AFP)—Two explosions went off Friday in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, as the body of late Pashtun leader Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan was being lowered into his grave, witnesses said.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE photographer in Jalalabad to cover the funeral said he counted 10 bodies following the blasts, which occurred in two parking lots.

Most of the apparent victims, he said, were drivers who had transported mourners from Pakistan to attend the burial.

The first explosion occurred around 0820 GMT in the parking lot where hundreds of vehicles were awaiting to ferry back Mr. Khan's mourners to Peshawar, on the other side of the Khyber Pass in Pakistan.

Witnesses said scores of buses and cars were also badly damaged.

Ten minutes later a second blast rocked another car park adjacent to an Afghan military garrison. Several vehicles were badly damaged there as well, the witnesses said.

Sources said at least 10 vehicles were blown into pieces after the explosions. Several bus drivers fled with their vehicles after the explosion, while people remained inside the grave yard.

Extremists Kill 8, Injure 47

LD232221 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The criminal extremists, these murderers of thousands of innocent compatriots, have committed a shocking, anti-Islamic and inhumane crime. Once again they have exposed their ugly faces by perpetrating a terrorist deed during the funeral ceremony of the late Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader and outstanding personality of freedom and peace.

The BIA military correspondent reports that the wicked extremists, by placing explosives in a parking area, caused a painful and unforgivable mishap when hundreds of thousands of our compatriots, tens of thousands of our Pashtun brethren from the other side of the border, and foreign guests, were gathered in Jalalabad to take part in the burial ceremony of the pride of the Afghans Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan.

The BIA military correspondent adds that as a result of this explosion, eight persons attending Khan 'Adul Ghafar Khan's funeral ceremony were martyred and another 47 were injured. The injured persons were immediately taken to the hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

The citizens of Jalalabad and all the participants in the ceremony cursed the perpetration of this sad mishap. They regarded the extremists' inhumane and anti-Islamic action during the burial ceremony of the great Pashtun leader and indefatigable fighter for peace, freedom, and justice—the pride of the Afghans—as an unforgivable, hostile deed toward all the people of Afghanistan and all Pashtuns on the other side of the border.

Pakistani Journalists Detained

BK231458 Hong Kong AFP in English 1439 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Jan 23 (AFP)—Two Pakistani journalist were detained by the Afghan secret police in Jalalabad Friday after trying to photograph the sites of bomb blasts that killed 14 people, the STAR newspaper said Saturday.

The English-language newspaper's journalist Zafar Abbas and photographer for the Peshawar FRONTIER newspaper, Abdus Samad, were detained with two other Pakistanis, the STAR said.

They were interrogated by the Afghan secret police, KHAD, for four hours before being released, it added.

The bomb blasts in Jalalabad coincided with the burial of veteran regional Pashtun leader 'Abdul Ghafar Khan. Ten of the dead were among thousands of Pakistanis allowed to follow the funeral procession from Peshawar.

Zafar Abbas wrote in a dispatch that he tried to photograph the blast site but could not do so as security men pounced on him and his companions, seizing their cameras and film.

The cameras were later returned but not the film.

Mujahidin Blame KGB for Blast

LD232102 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 23, IRNA—The 7 party Islamic union of Afghan mujahidin condemned yesterday's explosions in the city of Jalalabad which killed and wounded at least 80 people.

Head of the union Yunis Khalis in a statement released in Peshawar, Pakistan, Friday attributed the explosions during the burial ceremony of 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, to the Soviet secret police (KGB).

Khalis said Afghan parties had earlier warned of such plots, noting mujahidin had declared a four-day ceasefire in this regard in Nangarhar Province.

At least 18 people were killed and 62 others wounded when two bombs went off during the funeral ceremony in Jalalabad. Some 90 cars were also destroyed as a result of the blasts.

'Abdul Ghafar Khan was a political activist in the Indian subcontinent who struggled against the British colonialists along with Mahatma Gandhi.

Government Statement on Gardeyz-Khowst Highway

LD242352 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan's statement on the Gardeyz-Khowst highway:

Over the past 9 years, Gardeyz-Khowst highway security has deteriorated because of extremists' actions. The highway was rendered unusable for the state and people. The people of Khowst and the Zadrans have suffered a lot of moral and material hardships due to the closure of the road by the extremists.

The state has used planes to bring supplies to the people of Khowst because of the closure of the Gardeyz-Khowst road. But for 1 and 1/2 years the extremists have had surface-to-air Stinger missiles supplied to them by the provocative government of Pakistan and the U.S. imperialists. They endanger civilian planes flying between Khowst and Kabul to deliver goods needed by state organs and the people. The extremists have shot down Afghan civilian planes carrying old people, women, and children. Therefore, flights to Khowst have become difficult.

At the same time, Pakistan has put restrictions on the traditional trade between Khowst and free tribes, causing shortages of food and other goods for the people there.

Because the peace-loving people of Khowst and Zadran have been confronted with economic problems as a result of the closure of Gardeyz-Khowst highway, the state has asked the Zadran tribe, which lives along the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, to open this road built by the state as government property to help the people of Khowst and the Zadrans by transporting needed goods, for which they would be paid, in their own vehicles from Gardeyz to Khowst. But the extremists did not allow the noble people of Zadran, who wanted the Gardeyz-Khowst highway opened peacefully, to help and show understanding with the state, and they were evicted from their homes and villages.

The Grand Assembly issued a resolution on 30 November. The elders of Paktia, along with the elders of the Zadran tribe, were appointed to talk to the extremists in this respect and to obtain their agreement on opening the road peacefully so that no military operation would be needed. The elders appointed by the Grand Assembly sent the following letter from Gardeyz to Zadran:

Our valued and esteemed Zadran kinsmen: We have gathered in the city of Gardeyz to talk to you about opening the Gardeyz-Khowst highway for the assembly. Our purpose in coming to Gardeyz is to talk to you about establishing peace and preventing war between the government and the opposition in Zadran. We, the representatives of the people of Afghanistan, have accepted the responsibility to talk to you.

In order to hold an assembly, its place and time must be specified, and the security of both sides must be ensured. Therefore, we ask you to hold an assembly with us within a week, either in Gardeyz or in Khowst or Seyyed Karam. We totally guarantee your life and dignity.

We hope the Zadran kinsmen will not resort to bloodshed. It is in the interests of the people of Afghanistan and the Zadran kinsmen to reach an agreement with the government in accordance with the orders of God and the prophet. War is the path of annihilation and destruction, and it is not good for the Zadran kinsmen. Our intention is to prevent a clash between the government and antigovernment forces in the Zadran area. We ask you to reply to this letter within 7 days. The elders who reply to this letter should write their names clearly. May God help us succeed.

In response to this letter addressed to the Zadran tribe, a negative reply was received from the extremists. They rejected the proposal of the state and the incumbent delegation. The delegation, after other peaceful endeavors, issued the following resolution on the results of its mission on 20 December.

In line with a 29-30 November decision, a historic grand assembly of the elders of various Paktia and Paktika and Khowst tribes came to Gardeyz on 26 December to open the Gardeyz-Khowst highway and to reach a positive understanding with the Zadran tribe. The participants of the assembly, elders, and ulema and clergy held extensive tribal assemblies with total understanding and unanimity. Various letters and messages were sent to Zadran addressed to various figures there, and pamphlets were dropped from the air over the area. The messages of these respected elders were broadcast over the radio in Gardeyz in the form of personal messages, interviews, and roundtable discussions.

But regrettably, during this time the elders of various tribes of Khowst, Paktia, and Paktika did not receive a positive reply. The assembly did not obtain any satisfactory. results of value to the historic grand assembly's resolution. Because of extremist pressure, the assembly did not succeed in holding direct talks with the elders of Zadran, despite its constructive efforts and peaceful attempts.

The state has the authority to make a decision in this respect. The members of the assembly cordially thanked the Republic of Afghanistan for the mission and trust which was placed in the elders of the great and historic Paktia. They applauded the state's patience and the peaceful Armed Forces' observation of the cease-fire during the proceedings and work of the assembly. It was obvious to them that the Republic of Afghanistan does not miss any attempt to implement the righteous cause of national reconciliation and to maintain peace.

The members of the assembly will continue their benevolent and peaceful attempts to hold assemblies and meetings with the Zadran brothers. We once again invite the Zadran brothers [word indistinct] to join in friendship and benevolence to work for the opening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway in a peaceful way. We uphold the honor of historic Paktia in this respect. Let us continue the peaceful and benevolent attempts of the assembly of elders registered in our proud history and our present and future generations. Let us be proud of it.

In line with this resolution and the expiration of the 1-month suspension as proclaimed by the Grand Assembly, the state is opening the Gardeyz-Khowst highway to break the siege of the town of Khowst. The first peace convoy of goods needed by the people of Khowst has arrived from Gardeyz, and the first of a series of convoys carrying consignments of goods has arrived from Gardeyz.

The state will maintain military forces in Dowah Chini and Sataw Kandaw until the situation returns to normal to allow for the use of the highway and the dispatch of goods and materials needed by the people of Khowst. But it is withdrawing its forces from the Gardeyz-Khowst highway in the Zadran valley at the request of the elders of Zadran. This will allow the Zadran people who left this area as a result of pressure by the extremists, to rehabilitate. With the withdrawal of state forces the state invites the Zadran people and their armed groups, who demonstrated their peaceful inclination during the opening of the Khowst-Gardeyz highway, to return to their homes.

The state is certain that the Zadran tribes and most of their armed forces are in favor of guarding the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway to allow for its continuous use. The proof of this is that the Zadran tribe elders did not allow the extremists to destroy the roads and bridges along the Gardeyz-Khowst highway before the armed forces passed through. Only limited extremists groups intend to block the road once again. However, the great Zadran community will not allow the extremists to become impediments on the Gardeyz-Khowst road.

In line with the requirements of national reconciliation, the state accepts this request of the elders. It has withdrawn its Armed Forces and set up its garrisons far from the dwellings of the people. The state wants the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, which is level now, to be permanently open and in use through understanding and negotiations and with the help of the brave people of Zadran.

Extremist Armed Forces are warned that if they take steps against the peace-loving people of Zadran or the state by attempting to close this road, the state will take a resolute action against them. The state ask the Zadran tribes and other tribes of Paktia, Jaji, Ahmadzai, Mangal, Chamkani, Tota Khel, Tani, Gorbaz, Lakan and others to participate in keeping the Gardeyz-Khowst highway open in accordance with Afghan traditions and Islamic tenets, just as they took part in opening the Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

Resistance Claims Partial Control of Khowst Road

BK251344 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 25 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance has regained control of parts of the strategic Gardeyz-Khowst highway in eastern Paktia Province, rebel sources in Pakistan said Monday.

They quoted guerrilla commander Jalaluddin Haqqani as laying that Soviet and Afghan Government troops were forced to retreat Friday after several "fierce attacks" by the mujahidin resistance.

Commander Haqqani said the mujahidin fired rockets at camps and posts including two at Barkah and Alamdin, destroying 50 tanks and other Army vehicles, the rebel sources in Peshawar said.

State-run Radio Kabul said Sunday the government had decided to withdraw troops from the road, less than four weeks after a Soviet-Afghan force broke an eight-year rebel siege of Khowst.

The radio said the decision was taken after tribesmen in the main Zadran valley said they would keep the road safe.

It also confirmed that the mujahidin were still active at some points.

Radio Kabul said Khowst had now been adequately re-supplied and there were no food shortages.

Western diplomats here said if the largely-Soviet force guarding the road stayed throughout the winter it would be costly and risky.

They noted that Soviet and Afghan troops have carried out similar withdrawals in the past after resupplying isolated garrisons.

Also, the decision to withdraw coincided with the visit of United Nations special envoy Diego Cordovez to Kabul for discussions on a settlement.

Mr. Cordovez returns here Wednesday to resume talks with Pakistani leaders.

UN's Cordovez Arrives on Official Visit

Holds Talks With Wakil

LD231624 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] His Excellency Diego Cordovez, assistant UN secretary general, arrived in Kabul this morning for a series of talks and consultations with the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan about issues relating to the solution of events around Afghanistan, and to set a date for the coming round of talks in Geneva between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

His Excellency Diego Cordovez and his entourage were welcomed at Kabul airport by Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign minister and head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and (S.K. Benerje), head of the UN development program in Kabul.

After his arrival at Kabul Airport, Diego Cordovez replied to questions raised by the correspondents of the country's media. According to another report, talks between Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil and Diego Cordovez began this morning at the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry.

Answers Journalists' Questions

LD232016 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Interview with Diego Cordovez, assistant UN secretary general, by unidentified correspondents at Kabul International Airport on 23 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN secretary general, welcome again to our country. Allow me to ask you about the Pakistani Government's stand on a solution to the situation around Afghanistan in view of your recent meetings and talks with the authorities in Pakistan. I would appreciate it if you could inform the people of Afghanistan on this matter.

[Cordovez, speaking in English with superimposed Dari translation] First of all, I am delighted to be in Afghanistan once again. I always feel very close to the people of Afghanistan. For 5 and 1/2 years I have been making efforts toward ensuring peace in your country. I am pleased that my present visit is taking place at a time when I feel that a final agreement on the subject is close to being reached.

In connection with your question, I can say that my impression of the Pakistani authorities' stand is that they are determined to play a part in resolving the issue. Pakistan's important role in preparing for better conditions in which to achieve a solution to the situation around Afghanistan, is embodied in fact that Pakistan believes that the internal and political problems, destiny, and future of Afghanistan depend on the Afghans themselves.

[Correspondent] I am a representative of Republic of Afghanistan television. I want to ask esteemed Mr Cordovez whether he had any contacts or meetings with sources or people other than the official authorities in Pakistan?

[Cordovez, speaking in English with superimposed Dari translation] During recent months I have had contacts and discussions with the governments of a number of countries who can take part in resolving the situation around Afghanistan. I have visited Moscow and Washington, the capitals of two countries which are the guarantors of the Geneva talks agreements. I have contacted a number of well-known and famous Afghans who live abroad and who have an important part in the political life of your country. For, I want to find out the feelings of Afghans vis-a-vis the achievement of this solution. Because of time constraints, in Pakistan I only met and talked with President Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister Junejo, and Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs.

[Correspondent] I have another question. I want to ask Mr Cordovez what new topics will be discussed with the foreign minister during his current visit to the Republic of Afghanistan?

[Cordovez, speaking in English with superimposed Dari translation] I hope there will not be any new issues because the issues which should have been discussed and resolved, have been determined for some time, and agreement has been reached on them.

I hope that we will now go forward determinedly toward resolving the important issues and finalizing an agreement. I must say that when I began this visit, I was a little worried that new issues might pop up. It sometimes happens that when you are reaching the end of talks, new issues appear. I am pleased that no new issues were discussed in Pakistan. We only discussed those points which have been under discussion from the beginning. I am sure that we will have constructive talks during my visit in Afghanistan. Permit me to say once again that I am delighted to come to this beautiful country. I had a very beautiful flight over this country and I hope I have brought good weather too.

[Correspondent] Taking into account your recent talks with Pakistani Government authorities, how do you assess the next round of talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, which will be conducted through you?

[Cordovez, speaking in English with superimposed Dari translation] We are in the process of discussing what the content and subject of the new talks will be. I think you should ask me this question sometime later during my visit. My impression is that all the concerned sides are clearly very determined to reach a final solution very rapidly. What is important in this visit is that we achieve a number of basic agreements and make progress towards finalizing the issues.

Najibullah, Cordovez Hold Talks

LD241731 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] This morning at Gol Khanah Palace, the presidential headquarters, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received His Excellency Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN secretary general. He has come to Kabul for a series of talks and consultations with the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan to prepare for the next round of Geneva talks. Najibullah talked with Cordovez about issues connected with the achieving a solution to the Afghan situation.,

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil was also present at the meeting.

The Afghan president reitereated the unshakeable stand of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with normalizing the Afghan sitaution and ensuring peace in the region.

In mentioning the humane and peace-seeking policy of national reconciliation and its notable gains during the past year, esteemed Najibullah stated that the sincere intention of the revolution power in the Republic of Afghanistan has found its complete manifestation in this principled and bold policy. It is aimed at ensuring nationwide peace in Afghanistan and normalizing the situation around it and has opened the path to implement these aims.

Esteemed Najibullah added that the Republic of Afghanistan's delegation will also participate in the next round of Geneva talks with the necessary goodwill and flexibility as well as with political goodwill and the hope that this round of talks will be the final round and will achieve basic agreements.

The report adds that Diego Cordovez and his delegation had lunch with esteemed Najibullah.

According to another report, in line with talks and consultations on the issue of resolving the situation around Afghanistan and setting a date for the next round of Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, talks were held between Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil and His Excellency Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN secretary general.

IRGC Clashes With 'Extremists' Smuggling Drugs

LD230642 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 22, BAKHTAR—During a severe clash between an Afghan extremist group and the Iranian Revolution Guards in a Pakistan-Iranian border area, two Afghan extremists were killed.

Reports reaching here say the extremist group faced the Iranian Revolution Guard when they tried to transfer narcotics from Pakistan into Iran.

In the exchange of fire between the two sides, [word indistinct] Afghan extremists were killed and a number of the group members, including 'Abdul Rahim Niazi, their ring leader, were captured by the Iranian Revolution Guard.

Over 660,000 Iranian subjects have been addicted to narcotics, through the Afghan extremist groups, by smuggling narcotics from Pakistan to Iran.

Bangladesh

Further on Opposition Demonstrations, Strike

Police Teargas Protesters

BK221530 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 22 (AFP)—Police and opposition activists traded teargas canisters and stones here Friday after protest rallies calling for the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, witnesses and police said.

Witnesses said many demonstrators were injured by bursting teargas shells during attempted processions by several thousand opposition supporters in Dhaka's Gulistan business district.

Police said at least one policeman was injured and one protester detained.

The crowd attempted to join marches after hearing speeches at separate rallies by the two major opposition leaders, Begum Khaleda Zia, of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and Sheikh Hasina Wajed, of the Awami League, witnesses said.

Begum Zia, who also heads a seven-party opposition alliance, and Sheikh Hasina, leader of the eight-party opposition group, are spearheading a campaign calling for the ouster of Mr. Ershad and his nearly six-year-old government.

Witnesses said each rally was attended by an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 people. The several hundred riot police present kept their distance and did not interfere until the attempted marches began.

Police said demonstrators returning from the Gulistan rallies set a government jeep on fire near Dhaka University campus. No other details were available.

Rallies and marches are banned under the existing state of emergency proclaimed by Mr. Ershad on November 27 last year in the wake of opposition-led agitation and street riots.

Friday's rallies followed two days of general strikes called by the opposition which also includes a five-party alliance and the right-wing Jamiat-i Islami Party.

They have called for another dawn-to-dusk strike Saturday, the last day for filing nomination papers for the March 3 parliamentary polls which the opposition has threatened to boycott.

Begum Zia told her supporters the opposition would continue its united agitation movement until Mr. Ershad resigns and hands over power to a caretaker government to oversee an impartial ballot.

Sheikh Hasina said the opposition campaign would not end until Mr. Ershad's downfall. She said there was a national demand for his resignation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ershad Friday inaugurated a golf tournament here organised by the Australian High Commission, the official BSS news agency reported.

About 120 golfers took part in the tournament at Capital's Cantonment Golf Club, the agency said.

4 Dead, Over 100 Injured

BK241244 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Jan 24 (AFP)—At least four people were killed and more than 100 injured when police opened fire on anti-government demonstrators in this port city Sunday, hospital and police sources said.

The incident came shortly before opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed was to address a rally here. She had arrived here earlier from Dhaka.

Witnesses said police fired tear gas, then bullets to disperse thousands of opposition activists who had gathered for the speech. Police said the activists threw stones and other missiles at them.

Doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the dead and injured were taken said four bodies were brought from the scene. About 25 patients were being treated for bullet injuries, they added.

Strike Enters Third Day

BK230614 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 23 (AFP)—An opposition-called general strike gripped Dhaka and other major cities for the third day Saturday, the last day for filing nominations for the March 3 parliamentary elections.

The dawn-to-dusk stoppage, called to force the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and disrupt organization of the poll, appeared to be widely followed in the capital as on Thursday and Friday.

There was no immediate reports of any incidents, police said. Hospital and police sources said clashes between police and activists during opposition rallies Friday had injured 56 people, and 13 people had been arrested.

Rallies are banned under the existing state of emergency proclaimed by Mr. Ershad on November 27 to cope with opposition-led strikes and street riots.

Correspondents in southeastern Chittagong, the country's second largest city, said several explosions had been heard Saturday at the beginning of the strike, which was being widely followed.

In Dhaka, most public transport was off the roads, and shops and businesses were closed.

Traffic was limited to cycle-rickshaws, and some state-owned buses with grills on their windshields and their drivers wearing crash helmets against possible stone attacks by picketers, eyewitnesses said.

The opposition, led by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, has decided to boycott the March 3 elections, set by Mr. Ershad after dissolving Parliament December 6.

They have called on the president to step down first.

Under the Constitution, new elections had to be held before March 5 or 90 days after the dissolution of Parliament.

Informed sources said Health Minister Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, who resigned Thursday, had differed with the ruling Jatiya Party on its decision to go ahead with the elections, though this was not officially confirmed.

Information Minister Anwar Zahid also resigned Thursday, the official BSS News Agency said, giving no reason for his departure. Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman resigned on December 26 for personal reasons.

Violence Reported in Dhaka

BK231605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Reports from Bangladesh speak of violent incidents even as normal life in the capital, Dhaka, and elsewhere in the country was disrupted following a nationwide strike called by the opposition parties today. Sporadic clashes between opposition activists and riot police were reported from different parts. Chittagong was rocked by a series of bomb blasts. More than 50 people were injured in the clashes and at least 12 were arrested.

10 Killed by Police

BK241615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 10 people were killed and more than 100 injured when police opened fire on antigovernment demonstrators in Chittagong today. The incident occurred shortly before the opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, was to address a rally.

Police fired teargas and then bullets to disperse thousands of opposition activists who had assembled for the rally.

Reports reaching the capital Dhaka say riot police and opposition activists were engaged in pitched battles at several places in the city. Two senior opposition leaders are reported to have been injured.

Meanwhile, the 21 opposition parties have announced a countrywide resistance week from today to obstruct the filing of nominations for the parliamentary election. A spokesman of the liaison committee of the opposition alliances told newsmen that demonstrations will be held before electoral offices throughout the country.

5 Killed in Chittagong Violence

BK250337 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a press note on the incidents in Chittagong yesterday in which 5 persons were killed and 14 others seriously injured. The press note said some leaders of the eight-party alliance yesterday went to Chittagong and, defying emergency orders, tried to hold a public meeting at the Laldighi Maidan [square]. They tried to hold the meeting in spite of repeated requests from the law enforcing agency not to do so. When they were not allowed to hold the meeting, an unruly mob assaulted police on duty and threw a hand grenade and brickbats on them. The unruly mob also used firearms. To disperse the unruly mob, police resorted to teargas firing and lathi [baton] charge. One passerby, two policemen, and a BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] member were seriously injured when bombs thrown by the unruly mob exploded. The injured passerby is reported to have died at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was sent for treatment.

The eight-party leaders later met the lawyers at the Bar Library. The unruly mob, meanwhile, breaking into small processions, created a serious law and order situation and started widespread damage to public and private property. A section of them set fire to a BDR (?vehicle) near Cinema Palace. Moreover, the mob surrounded the police on duty and violently attacked them with several weapons and daggers, bombs, and explosives. During the attack, some police and BDR personnel were injured. In self defense and to protect the public and private property police were compelled to open fire.

Another section of the unruly mob gathered at the premises of the court building and attacked the police on duty. They tried to snatch away prisoners by breaking open the court [word indistinct]. To bring the situation under control, the police had to fire several rounds. Another section of the unruly mob attacked the police club at (Nandan Kadam) and severely damaged the clubhouse and set fire to two police motorcycles. Almost at the same time, the unruly mob launched an attack on police on duty with deadly weapons at (Kal Patar) and other places of the city. Police in self defense and to save public property and life had to resort to lathi charge and teargas firing. Despite these measures, the mob did not disperse and the police had to open several rounds of fire. At (Pabanpur) railway station, the unruly mob set fire to a railway passenger compartment and goods train. The situation was brought under control by prompt police action. The mob also damaged a government transport at Station Road by setting it to fire. Fifteen police and BDR personnel and some of the militant persons were injured in the clashes, in exchanges of fire and bomb explosions. They were taken to hospital for treatment. Hospital sources said four of the injured died and some others with serious injuries are under treatment. Some persons have been arrested on the spot. Police patrol has been strengthened and the situation is now under control.

Two Former Ministers Expelled From Party

BK250738 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Two former ministers, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury and Anwar Zahid, and a former MP [member of parliament], Manzoor Murshid Hafez, have been expelled from the Jatiya Party. A party announcement said in Dhaka last night that they were expelled for violation of party discipline and for activities against the party and party constitution and for lowering the image of the party.

Ershad Names New Information Minister

BK241459 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1430 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The president has concurrently given the information portfolio to Anisul Islam Mahmud, the minister of irrigation, water development, and flood control.

Mahmud had a meeting with senior officials from the Information Ministry at the secretariat today. Information Secretary Nurunnanbi Chowdhury assured the minister of all cooperation on behalf of himself and officials of the ministry.

Election Schedule 'Partially Revised'

BK231555 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] In partial notification of the gazette notification issued on the 1st and 18th of this month, the Election Commission has announced a partially revised schedule for holding the coming general elections to the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament].

Under the revised schedule, last date for filing nomination papers with returning and assistant returning officers has now been fixed Monday, the 25th of January. Scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on the following day. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is Monday, the 1st of February. Polls will, however, take place on the 3d of March as announced earlier.

Ershad Leaves For 'Brief Visit' to Rome

BK250742 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] President Ershad left Dhaka today on a brief visit to Rome. Vice President Nurul Islam saw the president off at the Zia international airport. Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, deputy prime ministers, ministers, the chiefs of the Army and the Navy, diplomats, high-ranking civil and military officials were also present. President Ershad was given a guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three services. The president took the salute and inspected the guard.

As already reported, President Ershad will address the 10th anniversary session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD. The session begins in Rome tomorrow.

Soldiers To Replace Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia

LD221745 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 22, IRNA—A ten thousand Bangladesh Army personnel will be sent to Saudi Arabia to fill up the vacuum after the departure of the Pakistani troops, following Pakistan's refusal to replace its Shia soldiers by Sunnis working in the Kingdom.

Quoting reliable sources, U.N.I. reported from Washington that the Bangladeshi troops are gradually reaching Saudi Arabia, but that the arrival there was yet to be officially confirmed.

Defence experts say that Bangladesh is ready to offer almost same services as Pakistan offered ten years ago. Bangladesh has sufficient manpower and can purchase, in transfer, oil from Saudi Arabia, the report said.

Sunni Muslims are much higher in number in Bangladesh Army. The Pakistani Army men which includes both Shi'ites and Sunnis took objection to the Saudi officials during the Mecca killings on July 31st 1987. Earlier the Saudi Government had requested Pakistan to send only Sunni soldiers to the Kingdom, but Pakistan turned down the request, the report added.

India

Sri Lankan President Arrives on Official Visit

BK250914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, arrived to a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi this afternoon on a 6-day visit. He was received by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his cabinet colleagues. The AIR correspondent says that departing from the past practice, the ceremonial reception was held in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House]. Mr Jayewardene is accompanied by a high-level delegation, which includes cabinet ministers Mr Gamini Dissanayake and Mr Lalith Athulathmudali. Mr Jayewardene will have wide-ranging discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during his stay. He will be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade tomorrow.

Gandhi Returns From Sweden, Comments on Summit

BK240328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, arrived in New Delhi last night after attending the six-nation summit and a state visit to Sweden. Talking to newsmen at Delhi airport, he said the summit has created greater awareness among the people all over the world, especially in the nuclear-weapon states, about the dangers of these armaments. It has also helped the governments to move toward nuclear disarmament. The prime minister reiterated that India will not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty as it is discriminatory. India cannot be a party to any dominance by any group of nations.

Earlier, answering questions from newsmen accompanying the prime minister on board the special aircraft, he described the summit as timely and proper. AIR correspondent S. Srinivasan reports that Mr Gandhi touched on various subjects including the Afghan and Kampuchean issues and the problems of Punjab and Darjeeling.

On the Afghan and Kampuchean issues, the prime minister said that he is optimistic about the problems being resolved.

About the situation in Darjeeling, he said it is for the West Bengal government to handle it as law and order is a state subject. He made it clear that the center will not tolerate any lawlessness.

Asked about the Congress-I stand on the Tamil Nadu ministry, the prime minister said it is for the AIADMK to sort out their differences.

In reply to a question on the Planning Commission, Mr Gandhi said there is no need for restructuring it. But it has to be strengthened. On the Sri Lankan proposal for a treaty with India, he said Colombo has not officially talked about it. However, India keeps an open mind. He said the next step depends on the situation that emerges in the island. It is difficult to fix a time limit for the peacekeeping force to remain there. A number of things like the devolution of powers and elections to the provincial council have to be worked out by the Sri Lankan Government.

In an interview to the Soviet weekly, MOSCOW NEWS, Mr Gandhi said that China, France, and Britain should join nuclear disarmament once the superpowers sign the strateic arms reduction treaty in Moscow. He said other nuclear powers should also have their nuclear arsenals covered by the disarmament process till all nuclear weapons are eliminated.

Nine More Shot Dead by 'Terrorists' in Punjab

BK230448 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists have shot dead nine persons in separate incidents last night. Seven persons were gunned down at Deepsinghwalla village under Sadiq police station of Faridkot District. Senior officials have rushed to the spot. Details are awaited.

In Amritsar District, terrorists raided the house of a farmer in Bania village and killed two women. Two other persons were injured in the incident.

Two Die in Punjab Killings

BK240320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by terrorists in separate incidents last evening. In Amritsar District, a farmer, Mohan Singh, was killed in village Manochahal. In another incident, a terrorist, Nirmal Singh Neema, was shot death by two of his accomplices in village Uthanangal.

The governor, S.S. Ray, has convened a high-level meeting in Chandigarh today to review the law and order situation in the state.

Prominent Sikh Leader Shot

BK240750 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] News agency reports say the former president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee and senior Akali Dal-M leader, Mr Kabul Singh, was shot and injured seriously by terrorists at his home in (Penda) village of Hoshiarpur District this morning. Two terrorists shot at him from a stengun at a close range, while the third waited outside on a scooter. All the three have escaped. Mr Kabul Singh, who was hit by four bullets, has been admitted to a hospital in Jullundhur. Doctors described his condition as serious.

This is the second attempt on the life of Mr Kabul Singh. He was shot at and seriously wounded in 1986 by terrorists at Kapurthala.

Akali Dal District President Killed in Patiala

BK250910 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, the Patiala District president of the youth wing of the Unified Akali Dal, Mr Kuldip Singh, and his two relations were shot dead by terrorists last night. The killing took place in village Belu Majra of the district. The victims were in their farmhouse when attacked.

Tripura 'Extremists' Kill 7, Injure 10

BK250342 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] In Tripura, 7 persons were killed and 10 injured when TNV [Tripura National Vounteers] extremists attacked 5 houses in Dubricheda village in North Tripura district last night. The director general of police, Mr Sharma, told the AIR Agartala correspondent that five women and one child were among those killed in the attack. Some cattle also perished when the extremists set fire to the houses. Further details are awaited.

Gurkha Chief Appeals for End to Violence

BK230919 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] A 15-member GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] delegation led by its president, Mr Subhash Ghising, left for New Delhi this morning. Talking to newsmen at Laban helipad in Darjeeling today, Mr Ghising appealed to all concerned parties to end the violence in the hill areas to create a congenial atmosphere for holding talks with the center on the Darjeeling problem.

Meanwhile, official sources told our Kurseong correspondent that the GNLF activists set on fire two primary schools and a post office at Singbuli and Phaguri in the Kurseong subdivision yesterday.

Police Arrest 17 Gurkha Front Activists

BK231315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, police arrested 17 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists in raids conducted in Kalimpong subdivision since last night. The additional district magistrate, Darjeeling, told our correspondent that the GNLF activists attacked a state armed guard patrol party at (Mongpu) under Darjeeling subdivision. They fired several rounds and threw bombs on them. Police fired in self-defense, but no one was injured. The GNLF activists also set on fire the (Sural) rest house cum high altitude research center.

Meanwhile, a 15-member GNLF delegation led by its president, Mr Subhash Ghising, is coming to New Delhi today for talks with the center. Speaking to newsmen at Baghdogra airport before his departure, Mr Ghising appealed to all concerned parties to end the violence in the hill areas and help create a congenial atmosphere for negotiations.

Gurkha Activists Explode Bombs, Ambush Police

BK241605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Forty GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were arrested today from Algara in Kalimpong subdivision in West Bengal. The superintendent of police told newsmen that a police party, which had gone on a raid to the area, was ambushed by the GNLF at two places. The GNLF activists threw bombs and opened fire at the police party. The police had to fire in self-defense. However, there was no casualty.

In another incident, GNLF activists exploded two bombs and attacked a government building in Darjeeling.

Figures on 'Terrorists' for 1987 Released

BK231136 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Jan 88 p 7

[Text] Patiala, Jan. 14—As many as 910 innocent people, including 95 policemen, were killed by terrorists in Punjab in 1987, according to Director General of Police [DGP] J.F. Ribeiro.

Talking to newmen here today, Mr Ribeiro said 328 terrorists were killed in police encounters and 3,750 arrested during the year.

He revealed that 700 terrorists were released on bail by special courts and many of them had again joined the terrorist ranks and were killing innocent people. He said it had come to his notice that while bailing out terrorists, courts struck down provisions of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act and accepted bail under various other provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

An encouraging factor, Mr Ribeiro said, was that terrorists were not getting as many fresh recruits as did before. However, a number of criminals were joining the terrorist ranks just to indulge in looting.

The DGP said the Punjab police were passing through a difficult situation, for which they deserved appreciation.

He said a new trend in terrorist activities was that contract killings had started. For instance, in a village in Amritsar District, eight members of one family were massacred by hired killers and the mother-in-law of the head of the family had motivated the killers.

The police chief claimed that the investigation into the case relating to the murder of Senior Superintendent of Police A.S. Brar and Superintendent of Police K.R.S. Gill at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports at Patiala recently had reached an advance stage and the three killers had been identified. It had been discovered that there were some more persons behind the murders. He said it was not appropriate to divulge the names of the killers at this stage.

Referring to the killing of former Minister Tarlochan Singh Riyasti, he said this case also would be worked out soon.

Mr Ribeiro said Amritsar was the worst affected district so far as terrorist activities were concerned. Seventy per cent of the total terrorist cases were reported from that district.

He said that by the end of the current financial year, 500 more jawans [personnel] would be recruited for the Punjab police and security forces.

Later, addressing a "Jan Shakti Samagam" [people's force meeting] at a nearby village, Mr Ribeiro called upon leaders of the Shiromani Gurdbara Prabandhak [SGPC, Sikh Temples Management] Committee and the Akali Dal to expel wanted extremists from the Golden Temple complex who were hiding in the holiest of holy shrines.

He deplored that the SGPC was shirking its responsibility and was allowing shrines to be misused.

At the meeting, 1,000 young men offered themselves for recruitment in the police.

Security Forces 'Running Short' of Troops

BK211330 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 21 (AFP)—Indian security forces are running short of troops with their numbers stretched between fighting Sikhs in the north, Gurkhas in east, Tamils in Sri Lanka and various insurgents in the rest of the country.

The mainstay paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has deployed all its 88,000 troops and has no reserves left, CRPF Director M.P. Singh said.

Some 35,000 CRPF troops are in northern Punjab to combat Sikh separatists while another 2,000 men have been deployed in Darjeeling District to halt Gurkha-militant backed violence, Mr Singh said.

The CRPF also sent 2,000 troops to Sri Lanka last November to fight the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and another 15,000 to the north-eastern states of Tripura and Mizoram where tribal insurgency has flared up, he added.

CRPF forces are also deployed in Assam state checking illegal immigration from Bangladesh and in the southern states on normal law and order duty.

"Even if we raise another five battalions (5,000 men) it would be soaked up by growing problems... by the time the men are trained," Mr Singh said.

Darjeeling District administration has requested another 600 CRPF men, but has yet to receive an answer from the central government.

The federal government has also deployed virtually all 66 battalions of its elite Border Security Force (BSF) for internal security across India besides guarding India's borders with Pakistan, China and Bangladesh, BSF officials said. Only two companies totalling about 200 men are still in reserve.

The tiny Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) contingent, originally meant for patrolling the Himalayan highlands near Tibet, has also been deployed in Punjab and the government even sent its Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) troops Wednesday to Tripura state to assist in the fight against tribal rebels. Army soldiers are regularly deployed to tackle the worst religious riots and are currently deployed in Tripura State as well as Sri Lanka where unofficially 40,000 men are stationed.

Pakistan Accused of Kidnapping 144 Fishermen

BK230134 Hong Kong AFP in English 0046 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 22 (AFP)—Pakistan Marines have allegedly kidnapped 144 Indian fishermen in the Arabian Sea off western Gujarat State, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Friday.

Lallubhai Punamchand Tandel, a fishermen's leader in Gujarat, was quoted by PTI as saying Friday that the fishermen were arrested on their boats on January 5 by Pakistan Marines inside Indian territorial waters in the Gulf of Kutch.

Some of the fishermen had escaped and later reported the incident to a local fishermen's association in Gujarat, PTI said.

Paper Criticizes Pakistan's Action in Siachen

BK231130 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Jan 88 p 11

[Editorial: "Pak Adventurism"]

[Text] The scale of the latest Pakistani attack in the Siachen glacier region makes it abundantly clear that it was a premeditated assault with definite political objectives. The offensive against some India-defended positions in the Saltaro Ridge area on January 10 and 11 did not cause any casualties on the Indian side. The GOC-in C [General Officer Command in Chief] Northern Command, Lt-Gen. B.C. Nanda, did not indicate any casualty figure on the Pakistani side either, but he made the noteworthy point that Islamabad had been creating tension not only in the Siachen glacier area but in the Punchh-Rajaori sector as well.

Some of Islamabad's objectives are not difficult to understand. It is clear that an impression has been created across Pakistan that it has got a black eye in Siachen. The People's Party leader, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has done a lot to spread such a belief. Even on October 30 last, she accused the Ziaul Haq government of failing to protect Pakistan's national interest in Siachen, and demanded a public inquiry into the measures that led to what she called the "fiasco" in Siachen. In a specific demand, she asked the Ziaul Haq government to confirm whether Indian troops had captured the "Quaid observation post" and had renamed it the "Gandhi observation post." To lend credence to Ms Bhutto's charges, the Pakistan Muslim League, headed by Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, also adopted a resolution around that period expressing concern at the threat to Pakistan's national integrity in Siachen. Since Ms Bhutto has signalled her return to active politics after her wedding, and expressed her resolve to mobilise the people against the government, President Ziaul Haq would be justified in anticipating a People's Party attempt to exploit Pakistan's reverses in Siachen. As Mr Junejo's party also expects Pakistan's prestige to be salvaged in the glacier region, Gen. Ziaul Haq might feel encouraged to embark on a few adventures in the snowbound upper reaches of Kashmir.

However, the new incidents in Siachen may not have been caused only by such obvious factors, although these must have made their contribution. It would not be entirely conjectural to suppose that Islamabad is doing what it is doing because of just short-term reasons; it has long-term perspectives. There are many reasons why Pakistan would like to enliven its northern borders with India. A resolution of the Afghan crisis would make it direct its attention towards Siachen. An eyeball-to-eyeball situation across the Indo-Pak border will eminently justify Pakistan's acquisition of new American weapons including airborne early warning systems. Siachen is so close to the border with China that tension in the region can be expected to be watched by Beijing carefully and made a factor in the Sino-Indian efforts to improve relations. Gen Ziaul Haq's intentions in Siachen are questionable, and New Delhi must be on its guard not to let Pakistan surprise it on the snowy wilderness.

Remote Sensing Satellite Sent to Soviet Union

BK241630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS 1-A, was airlifted today in a special chartered flight from Bangalore to the Bikanour cosmodrom in the Soviet Union. The 980 kg satellite will undergo a series of tests at the cosmodrom after which the necessary propellant will be loaded on it.

An ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] press release says it will be then fixed to the rocket carrier. The satellite will be launched in mid-March this year aboard the Soviet Vostok launch vehicle.

Tourism To Be Promoted With USSR

BK220842 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed to take early steps to promote tourism between the two countries. This follows discussions held recently in Moscow between the tourism secretary, Mr S.K. Mishra, and his Soviet counterpart. It was agreed that the tour operators of the two countries will exchange views on the subject. The Soviet Union indicated its desire to set up about 30 hotels in collaboration with India as joint ventures.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Tehran Friday Prayer Sermons

First Sermon on 'Jurisconsult'

*LD222022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1533 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[First sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at the Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran on 22 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The topic I will examine today in my first sermon, and, God willing, in one or two others, concerns intellectual roots and the extent of the authority and powers of the vice regency of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] and the rule of an Islamic leader in an Islamic society.

While this discussion will be separate, I shall, God willing, attempt to make it as comprehensive as possible while keeping it brief. At the same time, the talk will in some ways be a continuation of our past discussions of Islamic rule. Some of my comments in these two or three sermons may repeat points I have raised concerning Islamic rule in past Friday prayer sermons. However, since this issue has received more prominent treatment in our society, and since our dear and esteemed imam has instructed us all to discuss and debate it once again, to clarify the boundaries of the areas covered by the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult, and to examine the matter in depth, I will repeat those comments and discuss other aspects, as yet untold.

Of course, to keep the brothers and sisters informed, I must say that the events of the past 2 or 3 weeks following our dear imam's letter to me have truly been one of those valuable and historic opportunities and one of the great experiences of our revolution. This letter, which in content and form resembled one from a father to a son, or from a teacher to a student, was very precious and valuable for me. Fortunately, it had the same impact on the general climate in our society. It prompted our many committed scholars, specialists, presenters, theologians, ulema, and writers to turn their attention again to the most fundamental issue of our revolution and our Islamic society. Just as you have seen, that blessed letter was followed by valuable discussions in the mass media and, before that, in scholarly and private circles. Truly, we must consider this an opportune moment and I, personally, see it as such.

Our revolution has also undergone a new experience, the experience of decisiveness in the field of Islamic principles. In other words, there is no room to stand on ceremony in the administration of Islamic society, and on the subject of the leader of that society regarding the basic issues and clear methods of Islam. When his excellency so expressively displayed his constant grace toward this humble seminarian, his student, and when his excellency felt there was a point to be corrected among the remarks and comments I made in a Friday prayer sermon, there was no room to stand on ceremony.

It was with this same decisiveness, this same clarity, and this same attention to principles that our revolution was victorious. Had this faith and decisiveness, this courage and strength in preserving and protecting Islamic principles not existed in our dear leader, this revolution would not have been victorious, and would not have lasted after its triumph. This is what has been demonstrated. It is a lesson for all of us that, where Islamic principles are concerned, no one should stand on ceremony with anyone else. When something had to be cleared up for our people, that was when our dear and eminent imam set forth the truth using a clear, decisive, and explicit tone. Some may think it was a biting tone, though I myself did not find it biting in the least. On the contrary, it was most desirable. That was another lesson and another experience for us, and we hope to derive the maximum benefit from them.

I shall embark on the essentials of the matter—the question of goverment under an Islamic system. Even if we do not describe it as one of the most significant or fundamental issues in Islam, it will at least stand in the same rank as several other points of primary importance in Islam. If government, the question of government, the question of the vice regency, were to be removed from religion, it would become a collection of fragmented, disjointed edicts. Clearly, it would be incapable of performing its fundamental mission, which is to guide mankind, create paradise on earth, and perfect humanity. Religion is a collection of edicts. What consolidates them, makes them mutually compatible and practical in the life of mankind, and makes the fullest use of them to guide mankind and see to its welfare is the powerful hand of the vice regent of the Islamic society and the Islamic ruler. [Arabic verses omitted]

The imamate, the leadership of society, Islamic rule, and Islamic jurisconsult—all of which mean the same thing—are the reins of religion. They give direction to religion, to the collection of Islamic decrees. They put them in the proper place, match them with the needs of man, and search for, discover, and achieve the interests of society. It is the system of Muslims. In other words, without an imam, jurisconsult, or Islamic government, Muslim society has not authority. It is the powerful hand of God's regency that organizes such a society. Islamic government is in the interest of the world and develops it. If we take this away from religion, nothing that can have such an impact will remain.

Yes, some individuals, through their own efforts, will follow the road to progress on their own. However, the world would not be developed as Islam intends. That is the significance of guidance. It transcends all secondary tenets; it is one of the principles of Islam and stands beside its most important precepts. As I said, it is a most important Islamic principle.

The question of government in Islam has a very beautiful and glorious form. In principle, as far as Islam is concerned, individuals cannot govern one another. Human beings are free, and God is their true ruler. However, God's rule over man must manifest itself in the rule by an individual on the basis of God's values. Without such an individual, the rule of God is meaningless. These are God's messengers, who have come to govern the people. In their absence, they are replaced by their representatives, and in their absence by the jurisconsults, those who are aware of and familiar with religion, and those who have inherited the position of jurisconsult and imam from the messenger and the imams. [Arabic verses omitted]

All the disagreements that arose with the agents of cruelty during the lives of the imams, blessings be upon them, were on this subject. Those who opposed our imams, poisoned them, and killed, jailed, or abducted them, were against the claims to leadership made by the imams, blessings be upon them. Had the imams made no claim to leadership, had they even kept all knowledge to themselves, without any argument over, or claim to political power, they would not have been attacked as they were. Or, at least, the attack would not have been as strong. That was the issue.

Therefore, you see that in all the statements and propaganda of the imams, blessings be upon them, there is a great deal of sensitivity about the word imam and the question of the imamate. [passage omitted]

The argument between the imams, blessings be upon them, and the Bani Ummayeh and Bani 'Abbas caliphates was over this question, the issue of imamate or jurisconsult—the same interpretation we use today. That position has been passed on to the supreme jurisconsult. Were I to start reciting all the sayings and stories about the rule of jurisconsult now, we would get involved in a scientific discussion, which is not necessary here. However, during the recent talks by leading ulema on television, you heard about their books with their interesting and praiseworthy dissertations. During the absence, the time when the innocent imam is not here, the rule of jurisconsult prevails. That is the basis and fundamental philosophy of Islamic government and the rule of jurisconsult.

That raises the next fundamental question, namely: What part does the rule of the supreme jurisconsult play in society? His job is to govern society on the basis of Islam. There is no doubt about that. However, when the supreme jurisconsult issues an order based on the interests of Islam and society, that order is an order from God, a religious edict. The supreme jurisconsult may rule on an issue on the basis of pure logic or Islamic law, and implement it. That becomes God's order, and everyone must obey it. The meaning of the phrase guidance is one of the first principles is exactly that. The principle of guidance is among the first principles. In turn, all the decrees of an Islamic ruler are principles as well. They are not secondary principles subject to necessity. There may be times when a ruler issues a secondary principle, as that, too, is a religious duty. However, what the supreme jurisconsult establishes as a rule or implements in Islamic society are first principles. They are similar to the rules of God. Thus, you heard from the start that regulations in the Islamic Republic are Islamic regulations that must be obeyed. What is being implemented by the judiciary and carried out by the executive are the edicts of the supreme jurisconsult.

The taxes imposed by law today, the import and export regulations established by law, all the laws passed by the Majlis, everything that falls within the government's jurisdiction, which is set and implemented by the government, and everything that comes under the judiciary, which is set or implemented by the judiciary, are all manifestations of the rule of jurisconsult. In fact, it is the legitimacy of the rule of jurisconsult that gives legitimacy to all this.

In an Islamic society, the legitimacy of all bodies—legislative, executive, or judicial—is a product of their affiliation with the rule of jurisconsult. Otherwise, not even a parliament has the right to legislate as a separate entity. The Majlis ratifies laws. What does it mean to ratify laws? It means that certain limits are imposed on people's lives in accordance with certain criteria.

In line with Islamic jurisprudence and the principle of the rule of jurisconsult, no one but the supreme jurisconsult may take such action. Thus, the legislature actually enjoys credibility due to its reliance on the rule of jurisconsult, and the executive branch has credibility due to its reliance on, and endorsement by the supreme jurisconsult. If the supreme jurisconsult does not sanction or endorse all these organs busy at work in our country, be they legislative or executive, there would be no justification or reason to their work, and they would not command the obedience of the people. They all gain legitimacy as a result of their affiliation with the supreme jurisconsult. In fact, the rule of jurisconsult is like a spirit in the body of the system.

I will go even further: The credibility of the Constitution, which is the foundation, yardstick, and framework of laws in the Islamic Republic, is derived from the endorsement and approval of the supreme jurisconsult. Otherwise, what right would 50, 60, or 100 experts, from every class, have to assemble and pass laws and a constitution for the people? What right would the majority of the people have to sign the constitution and make it binding for all? The supreme jurisconsult, the Islamic imam, is the one with the right to draft a constitution for society, for he inherited divine rule from the Prophet and the imams. It was he who ordered the experts to sit down and write the constitution. Since he endorsed it, it became the constitution. The very system of the Islamic Republic is legitimate due to a decree from the supreme jurisconsult.

It is the supreme jurisconsult who creates and collates the system of the Islamic Republic as a system for Islamic society. It is he who makes it obligatory for the people to obey. Opposition to this system is forbidden, and constitutes a grave sin. We must fight the opponents of this system, as it was created for the people by the supreme jurisconsult, in other words, by a man appointed and assigned by God. This is the part played by the rule of jurisconsult.

Of course, in the past few days, there have, fortunately, been some positive discussions about how and by what right the supreme jurisconsult gained this enormous authority. In fact, the vice regency and rule of the supreme jurisconsult are the rule of Islamic jurisprudence, of God's religion, and of criteria and values. They are not the rule of a person. As a person, the supreme jurisconsult is bound by duty to obey the commands of the supreme jurisconsult. The commands of the supreme jurisconsult must be obeyed by all, including the supreme jurisconsult himself. There are some extremely broad sides to the rule of jurisconsult, which lead to God's vice regency. The rule of jurisconsult is based on the vice regency of God and the Prophet, which has been transferred from the Prophet to his regents, and from the imams to the ulema and jurisconsults, who meet the conditions. That justifies their power. That is what the rule of jurisconsult means in Islamic society.

Of course, if the supreme jurisconsult gives some of these powers to a person or body, that person or body will possess the powers bestowed upon them by the supreme jurisconsult. In accordance with the Constitution, various organs have various powers, which they exercise. If the supreme jurisconsult gives a particular power to a body, government organ, ministry, individual, or foundation, that authority will belong to that person or body. In fact, though, true authority, true vice regency, and true right, in other words, true responsibility, belong to the supreme jurisconsult. That is the basis and objective of this talk. [passage omitted]

Obviously, these talks deal mainly with the impact of the rule of jurisconsult on life, the solution of society's problems, and the resolution of certain areas of contradiction and duplication which might appear among the various religious decrees. Fortunately, in the past week or 2, this feature of the rule of jurisconsult has been discussed many times. It is glad news for us to note that, God willing, we will see fresh theological decrees and new aspects of religious ethics in discussions between ulema and scholars. God willing, we will examine this again. [Arabic prayer omitted]

Second Sermon on U.S. Withdrawal

LD222038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1602 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Second sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at the Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran on 22 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At the start of my second sermon, I feel that I must offer my condolences and congratulations to our struggling brothers in Iraq, the Iraqi nation, and particularly the respected family of the late Grand Ayatollah al-Hakim for the sad assassination and resulting death of one of Iraq's worthy fighters, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim, at the hands of Ba'thist mercenaries and enemies of the Iraqi nation. That family of martyrs should be proud, as those religious people have given many martyrs, brothers and children of the late Ayatollah al-Hakim, for this purpose. Iraq's fighters should be proud to have such notable figures, ready to sacrifice and struggle. It is also a source of pride and instruction for the Iraqi nation, and one of shame for the agents responsible for the crime. Such innocent blood will boil and, God willing, the faithful and struggling people of Iraq, as well as our own dear warriors, will avenge this bloodshed.

We truly expect the Sudanese Government to investigate this case, and to identify and punish the criminals responsible. Perhaps it will turn them over to the family, so everyone may see what sort of criminals support and defend the inauspicious group ruling the Iraqi nation.

The other point which I feel I must remind the dear brothers and sisters of at the start of Bahman [21 January-19 February] is the question of 11 February [anniversary of the revolution], despite the fact that our nation already knows its value. However, I would like to call your attention ot this historic day. It is a fact that throughout world history, the goals of the prophets have never been met, except perhaps during the reign of His Holiness Soleyman. That being an unusual case, we will not discuss it. At such special times, the goals of the messengers of God have never been met as they are being met today in this country, in this part of the world, and under the shadow of this Koranic government. [passage omitted] This event truly has no parallel in world history, except for the special case I mentioned, and the appearance of Islam. All these blessings, including the awakening of Muslims, the reawakening of Islam, the return to the Koran, the entry of the superpowers, the invalidation of superpower claims, and the other tremendous blessings this revolution has enjoyed all began on 11 February, when they blossomed. That is the flower which first smiled on the world on 11 February. [passage omitted]

There are two other issues I will refer to, one of which concerns the problems of the Persian Gulf and America's defeated policy in the region. We predicted it from the start. We said that even though they may all pool their forces to stage this major military invasion, one day they would have to withdraw. Today that day has come. Today, those who entered the Persian Gulf so noisily, those who came here one after the other as allies of America, as agents of the United States, as U.S. allies, and as guardians of America's interests or those of some other major Western power, are now leaving the Persian Gulf one after the other, quietly and meekly. America, too, feels compelled to reduce its forces. Even if it has not done so already, it will. It is quite clear that the United States can no longer bear this situation. It is forced to retreat. This plan, which we knew to be defeated from the very start, is today seen by all the people of the world as defeated.

What remains among international realities after all this noise and clamor is the strength of the Iranian nation and its revolution. Everyone has learned that a faithful revolutionary nation that relies on God does not retreat in the face of the clamor and thunderclaps of the great world powers, even if they all unite. That is what everyone has come to know and feel.

On the first day, at this very Friday prayers ceremony, and at all the gatherings of our people throughout the country, they clenched their fists to declare that they would humiliate the United States and put it to shame. That has been accomplished. The debate now is over America's disgrace. It came in noisily and is now forced to retreat quietly. In the 4 or 5 months that the United States has been here, it has become clear that America's presence has had no impact on conditions in the Persian Gulf, and that it cannot guarantee security. On the contrary, the level of insecurity in the Persian Gulf rose in this period. Above all, the United States will not be seen as any sort of threat or source of intimidation for our struggling nation and the Islamic Republic. On the contrary, such things will make the face of the revolution brighter and clearer in the world.

A more constructive and pragmatic point in all this is the fact that our neighbors in the Persian Gulf must learn a necessary lesson. Those who pinned their hopes on foreign forces now recognize that the whole of NATO—the United States and its European allies united to enter the Persian Gulf—could not defend them. [passage omitted]

They realized that they could not use such methods to frighten the revolutionary Iranian nation, and recognized that such tactics were inappropriate for ensuring security. The way to bring about security in the Persian Gulf is just what we ourselves have said from the beginning. We noted that all the countries along the shores of the Persian Gulf must join hands in friendship to bring security to the Persian Gulf and to apply pressure on the agent of insecurity, the Iraqi regime. Had our advice been heeded from the start, the countries of the region could have avoided these bitter experiences. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, some of the Persian Gulf countries are now looking at these issues more realistically. They are willing to talk with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to negotiate on the Persian Gulf and its security. That method is good, and will succeed. If the Persian Gulf countries decide to defend the region on their own, they can do so. The backbone of this defense is the immense power of the Islamic Republic.

The way to arrive at this defense is to apply pressure on the agent of tension in the Persian Gulf. That agent is the Iraqi regime. Iraq is at war with us on land. If the war is limited to that theater, and does not extend to the Persian Gulf, the Persian Gulf countries can breathe freely. That is our statement.

We say: Let us all come together and pressure Iraq not to create tension in the Persian Gulf. The Gulf is no place to create tension. Any tension created there will not hurt just one person or state. Everyone will be hurt, especially those of you who are more vulnerable. Greater harm will be inflicted on you.

Today, a number of Arab countries among the Persian Gulf states have expressed a willingness for negotiations with the Islamic Republic on Persian Gulf security. We welcome them. That is a good thing as long as the debate is friendly and realistic. We will lead the way. If they intend to resort to improper methods, if they again decide to drag the major powers here, we will still be the people who have proved that the power, resistance, and decisiveness of the Iranian nation are such that these things can neither frighten us, nor force us to retreat.

My next topic concerns the glorious victories of our fighters on the country's western and northwestern fronts. They are very valuable. In this cold weather and in that frozen, snow-covered mountainous region, the courageous youth and self-sacrificing men, the true warriors of Islam, are dealing the enemy repeated blows. Since the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations began, the attacks have continued almost day and night. The enemy was dealt blows in every case. [passage omitted] This is the very policy of continuous blows, which, God willing, must continue.

However, there is a point here which must receive the attention of international forums, and it is this: Once again, the ringleaders of arrogance are making a mistake. They are again speaking and making decisions on the basis of an incorrect assessment and a lack of understanding of the Iranian nation. They are following up plans for an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic. They think that through these actions, which are neither well thought out nor carefully assessed, they can force this struggling, resisting, and brave nation to turn from its goals. We declare that they are making a mistake. You are making a mistake. An arms embargo is nothing new for us. We have been under one for several years. Arms flood into Iraq from both West and East. They give it weapons, instruments, experts, and training. They give money to finance arms purchases, and even though they may not want to sell Iraq weapons, they lend it money. They place every possibility at the Iraqi regime's disposal. We must look for the smallest things; that is, we must get what we need by our own wits and efforts. None of the major powers or famous arms producers are ready to help us. This is not something that just happened. It has been going on for several years.

We took advantage of this opportunity to increase our ability to produce arms at home, and today we manufacture many complex weapons. International institutions should rest assured that, despite all these decisions, we will get whatever the Islamic Republic needs, regardless of the source. We have given our word to our own nation and to the Iraqi nation that we will deal continuous blows to the Iraqi regime until the downfall of tyrannical Ba'thist rule.

Khamene'i Receives USSR Envoy With Message

LD241719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] This afternoon, President Khamene'i received the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, who submitted a written message to him from the Soviet leadership. Expressing his pleasure at meeting with our president, the Soviet ambassador said: The Islamic Revolution of Iran is undoubtedly a popular revolution and the source of its power rests in a strong leadership and in the great Iranian nation. He then submitted the written message to our president. Emphasizing the friendly sentiments of the Soviet leadership toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Soviet ambassador stressed the need to greatly expand and strengthen bilateral relations and international cooperation.

Khamene'i, expressing his thanks for the friendly message from the Soviet leadership, emphasized the need to expand and deepen bilateral relations in view of the positive grounds for such cooperation.

Velayati Receives Libyan Ambassador 23 Jan

LD231201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the secretary of the People's Bureau of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Tehran met with Foreign Minister Velayati today. Expressing his pleasure at being in Iran, he affirmed that his discussions with Iranian officials underscore the importance which the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran attach to relations between the two countries.

Referring to his successful visit to Libya, as well as the agreements achieved there, Velayati elaborated on the importance of relations between the two countries and stressed the need to expand them.

Meets SFRY, Greek, Cuban Envoys

LD232323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The Yugoslav ambassador in Tehran met with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon and conveyed a message from the Yugoslav president to President Khamene'i. During the meeting, international issues and bilateral relations were discussed. The Yugoslav ambassador conveyed a verbal message from his country's foreign minister with regard to mutual concerns and the forthcoming Nonaligned Movement session.

The Greek ambassador in Tehran also met with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon and conveyed to him a written message from his country's foreign minister about bilateral relations and international issues. During the meeting, the Greek ambassador reiterated the invitation issued by his country's foreign minister for Mr Velayati to visit Greece. Accepting the invitation, Mr Velayati said that this trip will take place in the near future.

The Cuban ambassador in Iran likewise met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati today. During the meeting, the Cuban ambassador declared his country's readiness to expand comprehensive ties with Iran, as well as relations at the level of international organizations, to combat the ploys of U.S. imperialism.

Commenting on U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf and Iran's decisive fight against them, Foreign Minister Velayati stressed the importance of cooperation between the two countries to combat U.S. mischief. He pointed to the necessity of expanding bilateral relations, especially in the wake of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Warsaw

LD250509 Tehran IRNA in English 0501 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Warsaw, Monday morning for a three-day visit at the invitation of his Polish counterpart Marian Orzechowski.

During his visit Velayati is to discuss with Polish officials international issues and outlooks for broadening Tehran-Warsaw relations.

An Iranian delegation is accompanying Velayati in his Polish tour.

Stops in Belgrade

LD251403 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Belgrade, Jan. 25 IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, made a short stopover here today while on his way to Poland.

Upon arrival in Belgrade, Velayati held talks with Yugoslav acting foreign minister, Budimir Lonchar.

Lonchar took over from ex-foreign minister, Raif Dizdarevich, pending his appointment as the new Yugoslav chief diplomatique.

A written message from Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov was handed over to President 'Ali Khamane'i in Tehran on Saturday.

Velayati leaves for Warsaw later this afternoon.

Funeral of Assassinated Iraqi Held in Tehran

LD231026 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Funeral ceremonies were held Saturday morning for the late Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim of Iraq who was assassinated by Iraqi secret police in Hilton Hotel in Khartoum last Sunday.

Mahdi al-Hakim was a political and religious activist and a founder member of the Islamic Revolution Movement in Iraq. His brother Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim is head of the Iranian chapter of the movement known as the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI).

The ceremony held at Ark Mosque, downtown Tehran, was attended by thousands of people including Iraqis in Tehran. Hojjat ol-Eslam Tasali from Imam Khomeyni's office, head of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) and brother of the deceased Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, SAIRI members and a group of members of the Armed Forces attended the ceremony.

The coffin of the martyred Iraqi activist was then carried on shoulder as mourners chanted slogans in condemnation of the Iraqi regime and called for revenge on the Iraqi Government. It was later taken to Qom south of Tehran where it was buried.

The late Hojjat ol-Eslam was a prominant religious scholar, and fought in the forefront of the struggle against Iraq's Ba'thist regime. His body was flown to Tehran from Khartoum Thursday.

SAIRI Chairman Comments on Khartoum 'Martyr'

LD221221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] We continue the news of this hour with a report on the remarks made by Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], prior to the Friday prayer sermons in Tehran today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hakim analyzed the history of the struggles undertaken by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim. He said: Martyr Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim has achieved his aim; namely, the attainment of the presence of God. Although the dirty Ba'thists have succeeded in martyring him, they have not been able to kill his goals. His struggles and martyrdom have destroyed the aims and very existence of the Ba'thists.

He added: This martyrdom was a tragic event; but, like other glorious events, it will have a great effect on awakening the conscience of Muslims, especially those in Iraq. As the deputy prime minister of Sudan himself has said, this event has affected the political current of Sudan as well. It has had a tremendous effect on defeating the goals of the Ba'th Party in Sudan. It has contributed to fundamental changes in the political tendencies of that country in favor of Iran. These changes were so great that the Ba'th Party was forced to condemn this crime in Sudan. This came about only as a result of pressure from the Muslim people of Sudan.

The speaker pointed to the fact that in the history of the Islamic revolution there have been many tragic incidents of self-sacrifice and martyrdom and that these martyrs have had a major influence on the growth of the Islamic revolution of Iraq. He said: With these martyrdoms the Islamic revolution has moved from a stage of negative resistance to one of strong attacks against the ruling regime in Iraq. Today, our combatants have increased their attacks against that regime.

Referring to the fact that the Muslim nation of Iraq, together with the Muslim nation of Iran, will achieve greater victories, Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hakim stated: The Ba'thists will not achieve their goals with these last ditch efforts. The Iraqi nation will continue its jihad until the fall of the regime ruling Iraq; it will make this goal a reality.

He then analyzed the politico-military, economic, and moral defeats of the Iraqi regime. He asserted: The Iraqi fighters have increased their operations today in the most sensitive region of Iraq. The people of Iraq are reaching the point at which they will bring down the regime. We will continue our struggle until we bring down the regime and establish an Islamic government.

Larijani Discusses French Policy, Relations

LD241218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0756 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Report on interview with Foreign Ministry official Mohammad Javad Larijani by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given; from the "Holy Defense Program"]

[Text] Now that the impasse in relations between Tehran and Paris has been broken, and in light of the French Government's position as the main supplier of arms to Saddam's aggressor regime, we decided to ask Mr Larijani for his views on the French Government's policies. That interview produced the following report, which we invite you to listen to:

[Begin Larijani recording] In principle, we did not bring about a stalemate in our relations with France. In our view, an event took place, which was initiated by the French side. It was an unreasonable move, and, as such, wound up hurting our relations.

Now that the damage done is being repaired, we see that as a positive point. We believe that France could have derived greater benefit from better relations with Iran after the revolution. However, they missed those benefits due to mistaken political assessments.

Iran's Islamic revolution struck a telling blow to the interests of the United States, and it drove the Americans from our country. However, the revolution was not anti-French. As France had played host to the popular leader of this nation, this ummah, for some time, our people used to take flowers to French institutions in Tehran at the very time when American institutions were being set on fire one after the other.

Well, one can see that France had a good opportunity to establish relations with Iran. This revolution poses no danger to French interests, unless France intends to take account of America's overall interests. We do not consider such a position in line with the dignity of a country like France. Why should France sacrifice her interests for those of the United States? Thus, in my view, the policy which France adopted toward Iran from the start was not in line with that country's long-term interests.

There are several important points concerning arms assistance to Iraq. First, does this suit French political morality or not? We know that General de Gaulle set out an important principle in the political morality of France. He said that if any country commits an act of aggression against another, France must under no circumstances sell arms to the aggressor. In 1967, the year Israel attacked the Arab countries, General de Gaulle cut off the sale of all sorts of weapons and Mirage aircraft to Israel. He stuck to this principle until the end. Indeed, this principle is very popular among the French people. They accept it.

So, what happened when Iraq attacked Iran? They began selling arms to Iraq. Thus, arms sales to Iraq are an incorrect political policy. I must add here that it is a propaganda trick, used especially by the United States, to label assistance to the victims of aggression as an undesirable political problem, while claiming that aid to the aggressor is fully justifiable. In fact, assistance to an aggressor is tantamount to participation in aggression. In international terms, aggression is a crime against mankind as a whole.

These are international points. Mankind as a whole must take part in ending aggression. These are international problems. They are contained in international principles, and may be found in various General Assembly decisions. They are not new. As such, the sale of arms is an ugly and unjustifiable deed in terms of political morality.

Here is the second point: How useful have these weapons been in achieving goals? Did the Super Entendards make the Iraqi regime stronger? Were the Mirages and Exocet missiles able to make the Persian Gulf safe? No. Thus, putting aside the immorality of it, the sale of weapons to Iraq has been unwise. In other words, in terms of interests, this policy has brought about problems for the West.

The next point is that Iraq now owes France as much as $11 billion, which it cannot repay. So, in economic terms, too, it was not in France's interest.

In contrast, not only is the Islamic Republic of Iran not an aggressor, it is actually a strong opponent of aggression. It is a victim of aggression. The sale of any weapons to Iran or the provision of any aid to Iran is tantamount to helping a victim of aggression. Such an action is very correct and acceptable.

Today, anyone who helps the Islamic Republic of Iran with its defense or in some other way should be proud, as that assistance is assistance in eradicating aggression.

We, for our part, have not only taken nothing from France, but the French Government owes us $1 billion. That was a loan without qualification. As such, we face this issue from a position of strength and dignity. The aggressor country gets weapons and owes money, while the victim of aggression has $1 billion of its funds impounded. How can that be justified?

Thus, in our relations with France, our position is quite clear and most reasonable. We hope that the trend now set in motion will continue, and that French policy in the region will be reasonable, which would safeguard their own interests.

Obviously, we will take suitable steps in this area. [end recording]

Besharati Warns Gulf States on Iraq Cooperation

LD241003 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0747 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Last week the news media carried several comments on the willingness of some Arab countries to talk with the Islamic Republic. Therefore, we decided to conduct an interview with Mr Besharati, the senior deputy minister of foreign affairs. We now invite you to listen to his remarks:

[Begin Besharati recording] We want tranquility in the region. Since the beginning of the revolution, we have asserted our desire for peace and better relations with our neighbors. However, they did not let us achieve this. Despite this fact, we continue to insist on expanding our relations with those neighbors who desire to do so. We once again recommend to the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf not to tie their fate with that of Saddam. They will not be able to keep that regime on its feet.

Of course, we have good relations with many of these countries. They have understood our feelings, and in return we have warmly shaken hands with them.

During the 7-year war, some of these countries have acted as though they were practically one of the provinces of Iraq. Obviously, they leave us no choice but to regard them as one of Iraq's provinces. Therefore, they must be ready for whatever response we make for any action they take. If they help, if they place their airspace at the disposal of the aggressor Iraqi aircraft to bomb our residential and economic centers, then they must accept that their economic regions will then be vulnerable. They must know that to the extent that they value the Iraqi aggressor regime, to that extent will their own nations and economic centers endure the same fate. They are advised to abandon such deeds; such mischief will lead them nowhere.

An invitation to the United States leads to their own disgrace, as well as their master's. What else can they do? Nothing. There is a well-known saying that if you cannot cut down a big tree, then you had better sit in its shade. You have resorted to all sorts of mischief to break this strong and consolidated tree of the Islamic revolution, but you have failed. So please come and enjoy its desirable shade. Use the extraordinary power of the Islamic Republic in the interest of the region and its peace.

We want you to be glorious, but you want to be disgraceful. In some cases, we have no choice but to defend ourselves and our territorial integrity. [end recording]

Commentary on West European Naval Cuts in Gulf

LD241354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the change of war ministers in the Reagan cabinet and some explicit statements by U.S. officials on the need to cut the American forces stationed in the Persian Gulf, there have been reports recently on the impending departure of Belgian, Netherlands, and British forces. Moreover, as a result of internal opposition, the Italian Government faces some thorny problems over funding for its warships and minesweepers in the Persian Gulf.

But even as news of the departure of minesweepers and reductions in the number of warships was being heard, Western officials continued to say that their policies in the Persian Gulf had not changed, and that their support for the Persian Gulf littoral states would remain in place. However, it is quite obvious that remarks like these are meant to serve as a cover-up for the defeat of the Reagan administration's policies. These statements are designed to prevent Washington's allies from becoming disheartened and losing hope.

Interestingly, when American forces first began arriving in the Persian Gulf, the Europeans initially refused to follow suit. However, after a short while, and following intensified pressure from Washington—pressure implemented by such tools as Britain and France—Belgium, the Netherlands, and Italy gave in. They surrendered on the pretext that they would be protecting their own merchant ships. And so they sent some of their forces to the region.

Under growing domestic pressure, the unsuitability of the continued presence of its forces in the Persian Gulf, the dangers inherent there, and the impact this policy has had on the Republicans, the Reagan administration has decided to reduce its presence, thereby lessening the dangers posed by the presence of its forces. Following this, the European governments, using various pretexts, have also decided to gradually decrease their current force levels in the Persian Gulf.

Moreover, the appearance of such a trend in the policy of those Western governments with forces in the Persian Gulf coincides with the emergence of a tendency among the littoral states of the Persian Gulf to change their one-sided policies, policies centered on support for Saddam's regime. The rise of these trends has made Saddam regime's angry and anxious, to the point that the government-controlled press in Iraq has strongly condemned the start and continuation of this tendency, branding it a violation of the collective decisions made by the Arab League in Amman.

In any case, the hasty arrival of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, and the Reagan administration's current efforts to find a face-saving way to scale back its presence, reflect the weakness of America's ruling establishment on one hand, and on the other the power of a risen nation, which, relying on dear Islam, has created such fear and horror among global arrogance.

Weekly Says U.S. Seeking To Withdraw From Gulf

LD232327 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Athens, Jan. 23, IRNA—A weekly, specializing in Middle Eastern affairs, writes that the U.S. wants to withdraw from the Persian Gulf after having failed to achieve its aim of protecting shipping from attacks.

"There is some evidence that the Reagan administration is now in the process of backing away from its commitment to protect shipping in the troubled (Persian) Gulf, "Athens-based MIDDLE EAST TIMES said.

Pentagon was looking for ways to reduce the American naval presence, estimated to cost Washington 20 million dollars monthly, the weekly reported.

The battleships "Okinawa" and the "Iowa" will be leaving the Persian Gulf soon and may be replaced by smaller ships, according to the MIDDLE EAST TIMES.

"American naval officers in the (Persian) Gulf have complained that morale among their sailors is suffering as a result of their inability to strike back when ships of friendly countries were attacked," the weekly said.

France recently decided to reduce its naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, during his recent tour of the Persian Gulf Arab states, said the U.S. will not become the policeman of the high seas for international shipping.

Foreign Press Invited To Inspect War Gains

LD241728 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—The War Information Headquarters (WIH) today invited foreign journalists and photographers here to inspect the gains of the Iranian combatants in Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operational theater.

WIH called on the journalists and photographers to refer to the foreign press department of the Culture and Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Ministry to make preparations for the trip to the liberated areas.

The three-stage victorious Bayt-ol-Moqaddas-2 operations were launched in Mawut region in the northeastern Iraqi province of Sulaymaniyah on 15 January. More than 150 sq. kms. around the earlier liberated Mawut township was cleared of the enemy and over 5,000 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and some 1,000 others captured in the course of the operations.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,089

LD221708 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—Iranian aircraft backed by Iran's Navy successfully carried out their missions over the Persian Gulf waters and Oman Sea despite two warnings from foreign fleets Thursday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 3089 said Friday that the Iranian Navy fulfilled its naval patrol and controlled shipping in the Hormuz Strait and detected no suspicious vessel.

Exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire continued in the northeastern, western and southern fronts over the past 24 hours raging somewhat more heavily in Shalamcheh.

Muslim forces of Iran controlled enemy movements by despatching patrols and shelling Iraqi Ba'thists' positions and motorized convoys, destroying parts of defense fortifications and killing or wounding several Iraqi Ba'thist soldiers.

Enemy movements were disrupted in Qasr-e Shirin operational region when Iranian artillery fire pounded their positions Thursday.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Yabis and Bajliaya [name as received], southern fronts, at 19:50 and 22:30 hours local time (16:20 GMT) Thursday but were forced to flee the region due to Iranian force's vigilance.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces set ablaze at least four enemy group bunkers and gun emplacements yesterday, killing or wounding scores of Iraqi troops.

Iraqi Helicopter Downed

LD231143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] In the wake of the victories achieved by the fighters of Islam in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operation and the advancement of our forces into Iraqi territory, the head of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime ruling Iraq, Saddam Husayn, sent the commander of Iraq's V Army Corps and several other senior military officers to inspect the operational regions and to discover ways to recapture the liberated areas. The helicopter carrying these people was fired upon by IRGC fighters in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operational zone. The helicopter crashed as a result.

Major General 'Abd al-'Aziz Ibrahim al-Hadithi, commander of the Iraqi V Army Corps, as well as several other senior officers from that corps, were all killed in the crash. It is necessary to say that the Ba'thist regime of Iraq has confirmed the deaths of these men.

Kurds Kill 50 Iraqis in Dahuk

LD231607 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 23, IRNA—Peshmergas of Iraq's Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP) pounded several Iraqi Ba'thist bases on the Dashbashi-Emadiya axis, Dahuk Province, over the past few days, killing or wounding at least 50 Iraqi Ba'thists.

Ramadan Headquarters said that several military vehicles, and individual and group bunkers were destroyed during the shelling.

In another operation KDP forces set abalze an Iraqi motorized pool in the Soheyl area of Dahuk Province and captured three Iraqi mercenaries including the commander of a Khafifa (Light) Company, Iskandar Shamuneh.

Meanwhile twleve Iraqi soldiers defected to KDP forces in Zafar-5 operational region over the past few days.

Communique No 3,090

LD231708 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 23, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jet-fighters heavily bombarded Iraqi fortifications and troop-concentration centers east of Basra several times Saturday. The Iranian jet-fighters returned to bases safely after inflicting casualties and damage on the enemy, said a military communique here Saturday.

The 3090th Communique of the Joint Staff Command said Iran's Navy intercepted five foreign tankers and cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to proceed since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

The communique said Iranian Air Force planes also carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in support of the naval forces, in line with international regulations.

Muslim combatants of Iran checked Iraqi movements and activities by their artillery and mortar fire in northern, western and northwestern fronts over Friday and Saturday, the communique said. It added that some Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded when Iranian combatants set ablaze parts of Iraqi positions throughout the fronts silencing enemy tank fire in Panjwin and western Jofeyr.

An Iraqi patrol group, it said, attempted to penetrate the Muslim combatants' positions in 'Eyn Khvosh region yesterday, but was forced to flee sustaining casualties.

The Muslim combatants brought Iraqi engineering activities to a halt inflicting casualties and damage on enemy forces in Qasr-e Shirin region, said the communique adding that movement of Iraqi vehicles carrying ammunitions and personnel was checked in Sumar, Naft-e Shahr, Helaleh, Yabis and Hoseyniyeh.

In Kharratha, western Jofeyr and Majnun Islands, the communique said, the enemy attempted to land forces yesterday, but its attempts were suppressed by heavy artillery fire of the Iranian combatants.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces killed and wounded some Ba'thist troops in southern fronts Friday, destroying around 10 gun-emplacements of theirs.

Iraqis Captured by Peshmergas

LD232024 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 Operational Region, Jan. 23, IRNA—Some 100 defeated Iraqis were captured by the Peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) while the former were trying to flee the operational region Friday.

The PUK Peshmergas last Wednesday captured 130 Iraqi military in this operational theater. The total number of Iraqis captured by the PUK forces since Wednesday now stands at 230.

Iraqi Kurds Carry Out Raids in Dahuk

LD232218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] According to a report from Ramadan Headquarters, the center for the guidance of irregular warfare by the ground forces of the IRGC, Peshmerga from the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq directed accurate fire against several bases of the Zionist enemy in the Dashbashi-'Amadiyah axis, in Dahuk Province, over the last few days. More than 50 Saddamites were killed or wounded as a result, while several military vehicles and individual and group bunkers were set on fire and destroyed.

In other operations, the Peshmerga of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq destroyed a motor pool belonging to the forces of the regime ruling Iraq situated in the town of (Sumayl) in Dahuk Province. In the course of these operations, three duped Saddamites, including Iskandar Shamuneh, the commander of the Khafifah Company, were taken prisoner by the struggling Kurdish forces.

According to this report, as many as 12 Iraqi military personnel have surrendered to the Peshmerga over the last few days in the "Zafar-5" operational zone.

Planes Attack Iraqi Radar Site

LD241612 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 24, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed enemy radar and communication installations in Chaqchian [name as received] Sulaymaniya Province, northeastern Iraq at 12:10 hours local time (08:40 GMT) Sunday, according to an Air Force commander.

The commander told IRNA that all fighters returned safely to bases after scoring accurate and effective hits on enemy radar installations.

He also refuted as "pure fabrication" an Iraqi claim today that Iranian jet fighters bombed residential areas of Iraq Sayyid Zadiq township in Al-Sulaymaniya Province.

Communique No 3,091

LD241646 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters blasted Iraqi radar and communication installations in Chaqchian [placename as received], Sulaymaniya Province, at 12:10 hours local time (08:40 GMT) today, inflicting substantial damage on enemy forces. All aircraft returned safely to bases.

The 3091st Joint Staff Communique announcing the above here Sunday said pilots of Iranian Army aviation despite bad weather conditions heavily pounded enemy troops in the Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 theatre, northeastern Iraq Saturday razing enemy positions and motorized equipment.

The communique said Iranian aircraft also carried out reconnaissance flights yesterday over the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea to provide air cover to the naval forces.

The naval forces, continued the communique, intercepted and inspected three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to proceed as no suspicious cargo was found aboard.

The Muslim combatants of Iran consolidated their position all along the fronts and their heavy artillery, tank and mortar fire, checked Iraqi fire, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy over the past 24 hours.

In the western fronts a patrol unit of the Muslim combatants infiltrated defense lines of the enemy in Mehran operational region Saturday killing several Ba'thists and seizing an assortment of communication sets intact before returning to bases safely.

Muslim forces of Iran also reconnoitered two enemy patrol units in the Qasr-e Shirin operational region yesterday and forced them to flee.

Enemy tank movements were contained in the operational region of Sar Dasht, Qasr-e Shirin and Yabis Saturday sustaining casualties, while enemy helicopters' reconnaissance flights in Nahr-e Anbar, Fakkeh and west of Jofeyr, were repulsed.

Gendarmerie forces destroyed at least five gun emplacements and an enemy light vehicle Saturday, killing or wounding several Iraqi mercenaries, concluded the communique.

Personnel Carrier Ambushed

LD241750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] According to a report from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare by the ground forces of the IRGC, the Imam Khomeyni forces and Badr Division of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq carried out ambush operations on the Chamchal-Sanglu road in Kirkuk Province over the past few days. They destroyed one enemy personnel carrier, killing all its passengers.

IRGC, Kurds Attack Bases in Arbil

LD251246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] According to a report from Ramadan Headquarters, the command center for irregular warfare by the ground forces of the IRGC, the combatants under the command of this center, enjoying the cooperation of the Kurdish Hezbollahi Peshmerga of Iraq, attacked three bases of the Zionist regime of Iraq in the Sirakan District in the northern part of Arbil Province in Iraq and destroyed them. More than 20 Iraqi mercenaries were either killed or wounded. A number of light weapons and ammunition were confiscated.

Communique No 3,092

LD251507 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Sunday to provide air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter position of foreign vessels in the region, said a military communique here Monday.

In its 3092nd Communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces added that Iranian naval forces continued to control shipping in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but observed no suspicious cases.

Iran's Muslim forces opened heavy artillery and mortary fire on Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and supply routes throughout the fronts yesterday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

Iraqi troops also sustained heavy casualties and losses in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Iranian artillery fire suppressed activities of Iraqi tank squadrons in Panjwin, 'Eyn Khvosh and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and southern sectors, yesterday.

In Yabis and Husayniyah, southern sector, heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants prevented Iraqi engineering columns from digging canals or setting up embankments yesterday.

Movement of Iraqi motorized columns in Nahr 'Anbar, Jofeyr and Chazabeh, western and southern sectors, was checked by Iranian artillery fire Sunday as a result of which enemy troops sustained several casualties and losses.

In Meimak, western fronts, Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi engineering operations yesterday, concluded the communique.

Tehran Reports Attack on Danish Tanker in Gulf

LD232108 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Last night, a Danish tanker was attacked by gunboats in the southern Persian Gulf and sustained heavy damage. This ship, named [words indistinct] is used to carry refined oil by-products and has a capacity of 33,650 tons.

This is the third ship attacked by gunboats in less than 24 hours.

Earthquakes Registered in Mashhad Area

LD250904 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Jan. 25, IRNA—A tremor measuring four degrees on the Richter scale shook Kashmar, south of Mashhad at 00.55 hours local time Monday.

Another quake measuring 3.7 degrees shook the city Sunday afternoon. No damage was reported.

The epicenter of the first quake was about 130 kilometers southwest of Mashhad, and that of the second quake at about the same area.

Tremor Shakes Do Rud

LD251634 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Prov., Jan. 25, IRNA—A tremor measuring 3.7 degrees on the Richter scale shook Do Rud town in this western province for 30 seconds at 05:01 hours local time (01:31 GMT) Monday. The tremor, the third in the past two months in this town, caused no damage to life or property.

The geophysics center of Tehran University registered the epicenter of the tremor at 300 kms southwest of Tehran near Do Rud town.

Pakistan

UN Envoy Cordovez Comments on Afghan Talks

BK221554 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, held another round of talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani in Islamabad today. These talks are part of a continuous and comprehensive dialogue that seeks to settle the Afghan issue.

Diego Cordovez said that the Afghan people themselves will fully participate in the process of establishing peace in the country. In an interview broadcast on television, he stated that the objective of the current talks is to prepare a framework which will allow the Afghan people to participate in the process of establishing peace in Afghanistan. They can play a vital role in the implementation of any accord and its followup. A solemn responsibility definitely falls upon them in this regard. In reply to a question on how many Soviet soldiers will be withdrawn in the first stage, the UN secretary general's personal representative stated that we have yet to settle this matter. He affirmed that the Afghan people's contention is correct in that statements from the Soviet Union toward the withdrawal of troops should be given the shape of a solid accord.

Meets With Ziaul Haq

BK230259 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last evening. Their discussion centered on the issue of Afganistan. They exchanged views on the salient points of the problem, including the participation of the Afghans in finding a settlement that would enable Soviet troops to withdraw from the country, allow refugees to return to their homes, and restore Afghanistan's independent, nonaligned, and neutral status.

The president appreciated the efforts being made by Diego Cordovez and he assured him of Pakistan's full cooperation. During the discussion, it was noted that the Afghan issue has entered into an important and critical stage and that if Mr Gorbachev's statements are accepted, it is quite evident that the Soviet Union has decided to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. It is essential to decide important and critical issues to ensure a smooth Soviet withdrawal and return of refugees. This entire exercise now demands the extensive participation of the Afghan people themselves.

The president hoped that Mr Cordovez's present shuttle, which will take him to Kabul from Islamabad, would be successful.

Leaves For Kabul 23 Jan

BK230819 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The UN envoy, Mr Diego Cordovez, left Islamabad for Kabul today on the next phase of his current shuttle. During his 2-day stay in the federal capital, he held talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on matters relating to the next round of proximity talks at Geneva. Radio Pakistan's representative says Mr Cordovez was assured of Pakistan's full cooperation in making his shuttle productive so that the next round of talks could be held as early as possible to bring about an early withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and return of Afghan refugees to their homeland in honor and dignity. In view of Pakistan's full cooperation in the talks, our representative adds, much now depends on the attitude of the Kabul regime in responding positively to arrangements for the next round of proximity talks.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto Retires From Politics

BK231450 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Jan 23 (AFP)—Pakistani opposition leader Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has announced her retirement from politics in favour of her daughter, Benazir, a pro-opposition newspaper reported Saturday.

Begum Bhutto, who assumed chairmanship of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) after her husband was executed in April 1979, has not taken part in politics since she left Pakistan for self-exile five years ago.

She returned in October to organise the wedding of Benazir, PPP co-chairman.

The pro-PPP DAILY NEWS said Begum Bhutto announced her retirement in an interview with the newspaper just before she left Pakistan.

She was to meet her son Murtaza in Syria and show him video cassettes of Benazir's wedding to Karachi businessman and polo player Asif Ali Zardari.

Murtaza could not attend his sister's wedding because he is wanted by the police in connection with the 1980 hijacking of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul.

Shi'ite Protesters Burn Paper's Karachi Office

BK230128 Hong Kong AFP in English 0037 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Jan 22 (AFP)—Shi'ite demonstrators Friday set fire to the offices of Pakistan's biggest Urdu language daily, witnesses here said.

The demonstrators threw stones at the JANG newspaper's offices and then petrol bombs which set the multistorey building on fire, witnesses said.

Several fire tenders rushed to the scene and fought the blaze for about half an hour, they said.

The demonstrators belonged to a Shia fundamentalist organisation demanding the enforcement of a separate Shi'ite system in mainly Sunni Pakistan, they said.

The Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqah Jafria organisation has been critical of the newspaper's coverage of communal issues.

Minister Tells Senate 'No Clashes' at Siachen

BK241549 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The Senate was assured that steps have been taken to face any threat to the country's territorial integrity. This assurance was given by Minister of State for Defense Rana Naim Mahmud while speaking on two identical adjournment motions sought to be moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmad and Yunus Iqbal. They wanted a Senate debate on press reports about clashes between Indian and Pakistani forces at Siachen (?this) month.

The minister of state told the Senate that there have been no clashes in the Siachen area after October last year. The government is fully aware of the danger inherent in this situation and it has taken all the necessary steps to defend the country's territorial integrity.

The Senate chairman ruled the motion out of order. [passage omitted]

Sindhis Organize Protest Week Rallies

BK210654 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jan 88 p 1

[From Dastgir Bhatti]

[Text] Hyderabad, Jan. 8—"The Sindhis will no longer tolerate the conspiracy to be transformed into a minority in their own historical homeland", was the theme of the slogans and speeches delivered in the protest rallies organised in dozens of Sind towns today on the call given by the "Sindhi Peoples National Alliance" [SPNA] comprising eight different organisations of the Province.

On the last leg of the protest week observed throughout Sind, the biggest procession in this connection was taken out this noon in Hyderabad where thousands of male and female processionists marched through the main roads of the city and finally converged on the thoroughfare outside the Muslim College Hyderabad.

The emotionally charged public meeting echoed with the slogans of "Sind belongs to Sindhis" and "friendship yes, domination no". The young students were holding placard with demands, "Colonisation of Sind Through Cantonments Would Be Opposed, Pannu Aqil Cantonment Not Wanted, Scrap the Kala Bagh Dam Project, Release All Political Prisoners and Hang the Murders of Fazil Rahu".

Those who addressed the huge congregation included Syed Alam Shah, President ANP [Awami National Party], Sind, Mrs. Akhtar Baloch, a leader of the Sindhiani Tehrik [Sindhi Women's Movement], Sattar Rajper, the newly elected President of the Sind Peoples Students Federation, Syed Samar Ali Shah, President Confederal Students Organisation, Imdad Chandio, President Democratic Students Federation, Qadir Ranto, President

Sindhi Hari Tehrik, Mir Thebo of the ANP, Mr. Baper, President Sindhi Mazdoor Tehirk [Workers Movement] and Miss Khairunnissa Khoso, Convenor Sindhi Girls Students Organisation.

Speakers expressed their determination to bring all the remaining Sindhi political parties into the fold of the Alliance so that a joint struggle could be launched to have the interests of Sind and Sindhis.

Mrs. Akhtar Baloch of Sindhiani Tehrik said that the creation of Pakistan was not meant to turn the people of Sind into slaves. She felt that today's gathering in Hyderabad indicated that the Sindhis had now finally realised the need and importance of unity which she said was essential for the achievements of their rights constantly trampled upon by the rulers. Several resolutions were also passed unanimously, one of which demanded the release of Syed Ali Hyder Shah and G.M. Seyed whose Jeay Sind Mohaz had refused to join the SPNA solely because the call for forging alliance was given by Rasul Bux Paleepjo, the Secretary General of the Awami National Party whose federalist line was disliked by Syed.

MRD To Hold Public Meeting in Lahore 12 Feb

BK181350 Karachi DAWN in English
10 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 9—The MRD Executive Committee has decided to hold a public meeting at Mochi Gate, Lahore, on Feb 12, followed by a meeting of the leaders of the alliance in Lahore on Feb 13 and 14.

The heads of the component parties of the MRD will address the public meeting.

Plans to establish a permanent structure of the MRD have been shelved and it was finally decided to maintain status quo.

According to an insider, the sub-committee formed on Friday [8 January] by the MRD for formulating proposals for setting up a permanent structure of the alliance failed to reach an agreed conclusion and sharp differences erupted over the question of appointing a permanent president for one year.

Four names were reportedly under consideration of the sub-committee for this post. They were Ms Benazir Bhutto (PPP), Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan (PDP) [Pakistan Democratic Party], Khan Abdul Wali Khan (ANP) [Awami National Party] and Malik Qasim (ML) [Muslim League].

PPP co-chairperson, however, reportedly asked the committee not to consider her name for the post of presidentship.

Major objection on the appointment of a permanent structure was raised by PPP and ANP representatives. However, later ANP also reluctantly agreed to a permanent structure.

The smaller parties in the alliance were reportedly very keen to have a permanent structure, specially after the withdrawal of Ms Benazir Bhutto from the contest.

Insiders told DAWN that heated debate marred the sub-committee's meeting and at one stage the alliance virtually reached a breaking point.

After its failure to reach any conclusion, the issue was referred back to Central Committee of the MRD.

Later the party heads of the component parties went into session to resolve the complicated issue but could not find a way out. PDP and PNP [Pakistan National Party] heads reportedly even stressed the need for an election alliance, besides setting up a permanent structure.

After their failure to reach an acceptable decision the party heads decided by consensus to maintain status quo with some additions in the already existing elected posts.

Another important item on the agenda—consideration of taxation proposals in regard to provincial autonomy—was also deferred till the next meeting. The report, it is learnt, has been finalised by the committee headed by Mr M.B. Kutti of PNP.

PPI [Pakistan Press International] adds: MRD has decided to launch a mass contact campaign throughout the country, in the near future.

PPI reliably learnt that the decision taken by the seven-member sub-committee in this regard was unanimously approved by the party heads today.

Sri Lanka

President Jayewardene Leaves for India 25 Jan

BK250537 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0527 GMT 25 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 25 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene and Mrs Jayewardene left this morning for New Delhi.

The president and Mrs Jayewardene left on an invitation by the Indian president, R. Venkataraman, to participate as chief guests at the Indian Republic Day celebrations which commence on January 26.

Provincial Council Election Bill Passed

BK221323 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1308 GMT 22 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 22 (LANKA PUWATH)—The provincial councils election bill was passed in Sri Lanka Parliament today.

101 members voted for the bill while seven voted against.

The members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Communist Party and Mahajana Eksath Peramuna voted against.

LTTE Resistance 'Eliminated' in North

BK221612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Two hard-core LTTE men surrendered to the peacekeeping force [PKF] at Valvettiturai in the north. In the east, one of the senior leaders, (Castro), committed suicide by consuming cyanide pill when a hand grenade lobbed by him on PKF failed to explode.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that organized resistance by the LTTE has been completely eliminated in the north. The LTTE men are not only leaving behind arms and ammunition but also walkie-talkie sets. He said 76 such sets have been recovered in Jaffna so far.

Meanwhile, reports from Colombo say the government agent of Mannar, Mr M.M. Makhbul, was shot dead this evening by unidentified gunmen. He was coming from Talaimannar to Mannar when he was pulled out of his car and shot dead. Further details are awaited.

Curfew Imposed in Mannar

BK231119 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1106 GMT 23 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—A twenty-four hour curfew was imposed this morning in Sri Lanka's northwestern town of Mannar following the killing of a senior civil administrator, M.M. Makhbul by terrorists, headquarters inspector [HQI], Mannar police, R.A. Seneviratne told LANKA PUWATH.

The curfew declared at 0600 hours (local time) this morning will be effective up to 0600 hours (local time) tomorrow (Sunday).

HQI Seneviratne said that the police and the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) increased their patrols and tightened security after Friday's killing of Mr Makhbul by terrorists.

The tension appeared to be receding after Mr Makhbul's body was airlifted for burial in his home town of Jaffna, 220 kilometers north of Mannar.

However, security measures have not been relaxed, Mr Seneviratne said.

Indian Troops Intensify Patrols

BK241011 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0955 GMT 24 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Jan 24 (LANKA PUWATH)—Three hundred and fifty-six Sri Lankan refugees (85 families) in Tamil Nadu returned to the country yesterday, senior assistant secretary, Rehabilitation Ministry, Tilak Chandrasekere told LANKA PUWATH. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, headquarters inspector, Mannar, R.A. Seneviratne, told LANKA PUWATH that the tension in Mannar, following the murder of the government agent, was now easing and the situation was under control.

Indian troops and the Sri Lanka police have intensified patrols in the district.

Refugees Continue To Return

BK230915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the fourth batch of about 900 refugees is arriving at Talaimannar this afternoon from Rameswaram by an Indian naval ship. Over 920 refugees have so far arrived in three batches. Our Jaffna correspondent, Sudarshanam, reports that financial assistance will be extended to these refugees for construction of houses. The UN high commissioner for refugees is also giving gift packages consisting of essential commodities and ration to each family to meet their immediate requirements.

Meanwhile, normalcy continues in the entire Jaffna Peninsula.

9 LTTE Terrorists Surrender

BK240959 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0948 GMT 24 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (LANKA PUWATH)—Nine LTTE terrorists surrendered to the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) at Karaveddy, Jaffna yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

At Atchchuvely, Indian troops recovered 20 kilos of explosives and at Karannavy they seized 300 rounds of .50 and 200 rounds of 7.62 belted ammunition.

At Myliddy, a further twenty 60 mm mortar bombs and two containers each weighing 25 kilos of explosives were also seized.

Indian Troops Capture 2 Boats, 7 LTTE Men

BK250348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] In the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force captured seven LTTE men and two boats last evening. Some arms and ammunition were also recovered from them.

5 JVP Members Reportedly Killed in Shoot Out

BK241645 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (AFP)—Five Sinhalese extremists were killed Sunday in a gunbattle with police in southern Sri Lanka, police said.

The battle in Beliatta jungle, 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of here, was triggered during a nine-hour offensive to flush out anti-government rebels, police said.

A police spokesman said the victims were identified as members of a hit squad responsible for the assassinations of Sri Lanka's ruling party chairman and the chief of the police anti-subversive unit in Colombo last month.

He said four automatic weapons, 24 shotguns, hand grenades and ammunition were recovered from a hideout of the extremist Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front).

About 150 police and paramilitary troops were involved in the raid, the spokesman said. One of the five JVP victims had been identified as an Army deserter, he said.

He said the arms haul was the biggest in the south of the island where the JVP has a stronghold. Some of the weapons had been stolen from military establisments in the south, he said.

The JVP is believed to have stolen at least 1,500 weapons from licensed gun holders during the past six months, the spokesman said.

The JVP is violently opposed to the government and a New Delhi-backed peace plan aimed at ending nearly five years of Tamil separatist violence in the island nation.

Since the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord was signed July 29, the JVP has continued to kill ruling party supporters and stepped up attacks on the military.

The JVP led a bloody insurrection against the government in 1971 in which at least 10,000 people died.